1992

Ancient Near Eastern Temple Assemblies: A Survey and Prolegomena

John Arthur Bloom

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Ancient Near Eastern Temple Assemblies: A Survey and Prolegomena

Abstract
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References to the assembly of the gods are reviewed for insights about its place of meeting, protocol, and how humans related to it. The most common meeting place was the ubiu-ukkin-na, a decorated courtyard with seats for the gods into which only the highest civic leader could enter to make petitions. Assembly protocol reflects that of a king meeting with his advisors or subjects rather than a democratic peer-group: In the epic literature we see strong leadership in the divine assembly exhibited by An, Enil or Marduk, with decisions being affirmed by oath after a consensus is reached. More significantly, it is not unusual for the leader to simply issue a decree and have it affirmed by the assembly without apparent discussion.

Further, we found that the divine assembly motif does not appear in the earliest versions of several major texts from differing genres. This suggests that the behavior of the divine assembly does not accurately reflect a prehistorical human assembly protocol, as is sometimes supposed.

The majority of surviving references to human assemblies meeting on the temple precinct involve legal disputes (oath-taking and cases involving temple material or personnel) and administrative functions (the kinstu governing board). From the lack of evidence, it appears that the public had very limited access to the temple or involvement in its ceremonies.

As the bulk of this research consisted of contextual word-studies, several valuable clarifications of meaning for puhrum and its synonyms were deduced.

Degree Type
Dissertation

Degree Name
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Keywords
assembly, divine, Akkadian, Sumerian, puhrum

Comments
Library at the Katz Center - Archives Thesis. DS72 .B655 1992

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Ancient Near Eastern

Temple Assemblies:

A Survey and Prolegomena

by

John Arthur Bloom

A Dissertation

submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

May, 1992

Annenberg Research Institute

420 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106
APPROVAL

This dissertation, entitled

Ancient Near Eastern
Temple Assemblies:
A Survey and Prolegomena

by

John Arthur Bloom
Candidate for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

has been read and approved by

Date May 22, 1992
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As the bulk of this research consisted of contextual word-studies, several valuable clarifications of meaning for puḫrum and its synonyms were deduced.
To:
My Parents,
William and Gladys Bloom;
My Advisor,
Dr. Sol Cohen;
My Wife,
Claudia Anne Bloom;
My Son,
David William Bloom;
My LORD,
The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob;
And My Savior,
Christ Jesus.

"But what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his soul?"
Acknowledgements

In turning to look back over the ten years that went into this work, it is difficult to summarize my gratitude and thanks for all who have contributed to the success of this effort. Certainly my wife Claudia deserves first mention, as she put up with my years of classes, studying, papers, commuting, and exams; always encouraging me and willing to make the necessary sacrifices with me. Next would be the Studenroth family and the members of the Bethany Bible Fellowship Church in Hatfield, PA. By sharing the church house together for over ten years we were able to afford to keep going to school. Without that generous symbiotic relationship it would have been impossible for me to continue on for a second doctorate. Direct financial assistance from the Brenner Fellowship and the Elsie Bohstedt Scholarship is also most gratefully acknowledged.

I wish to thank those who gave me the vision to seek this additional degree: Pastor Herman J. Eckelmann and the members and friends of The Faith Bible Church of Ithaca, NY. Their encouragement to train myself equally well in science and theology in order to handle the difficult problems that occur at that interface, as well as their prayers, kept me at the books. Even Sheila Billings' threats to come down and beat me with her broom if I ever gave up came in handy a time or two.

I am particularly grateful to those scholars who allowed me to use their sources and archives for collecting
my texts: Erle Leichty, Ake Sjöberg, and others at the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania went out of their way on every occasion to be of help to me. I carry with me as role models in my own academic career their examples of openness in sharing material and patience in dealing with endless absurd questions.

Certainly thanks is in order for my mentor and advisor, Sol Cohen, whose encouragement and textual insights helped shape and mold both this work and my thinking. I also want to acknowledge the other faculty and staff at Dropsie College, the Annenberg Research Institute, now the Center for Judaic Studies, especially those who rode the waves of transition with me and helped provide the continuity that my graduate program required.

I wish to thank the LORD for the many blessings which were essential for the success of this work. As in my first degree, the providences which led to my choice of Dropsie, my major, my advisor, my thesis topic, and many of the sources cited herein strain any theory of selective perception evoked by those who might be inclined to dismiss them as luck or chance. Finally, I am especially grateful for an eternal salvation from a fate truly worse than physical death, and that it, unlike anything else I have ever known, is one genuinely free gift which, although many people try, can never be bought.
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Chapter 1.
Introduction.

I. Overview.

Of the many questions that modern man asks of the past and seeks to answer with the fragmentary evidence that has chanced to survive to the present are those dealing with the origins of the social institutions that define and mold his modern civilization. How did governments and bureaucracy evolve, and particularly, to what does democracy trace its origins? How did religion evolve, and particularly, what precursors to Jewish or later Christian norms and rites are we aware of?

With the rise of modern Near-Eastern archaeology the contemporary scholar has the privilege of extending his search beyond the cultures of Greece and Rome. Written records from mature societies that existed thousands of years before the golden age of Athens have been recovered from the Near East and these provide us with glimpses of social institutions that bear a recognizable affinity to our own. In some cases we can tentatively trace protocols and customs through the shadows of myth and legend back to the era preceding the development of writing.

In these records we often find terms which refer to an assembly, Akkadian puḫrum and Sumerian ukkin\(^1\) with its variant forms, that is, a group which meets for a specific

\(^1\) Sometimes puḫrum appears in Sumerian texts as a borrowing.
purpose such as: to reach a consensus; to resolve a legal dispute; to worship or praise a god, and which serves as a foundational organ of collective action in ancient near eastern society. The significance of these assemblies in ancient government was first noted by Thorkild Jacobsen in his landmark papers.

In studies and reviews of this issue which have followed to date, the focus has remained on the assembly's role in early government and its possible resemblance to democracy or similar forms of rule by the common people. However, we noticed that there are a number of texts which refer to an assembly in a temple context that does not bear on governing issues. We proposed that these texts might provide clues to the origin, not of democracy, but of modern congregational forms of worship. To the best of our knowledge, these scattered references have not been collected and evaluated on their own merits with this question in mind so as to determine if they indeed can shed any light on the origin of this cultic institution.

Our study of this question consists of the following steps: (1) the gathering of primary sources in which an assembly of any significant form occurred; (2) selecting those texts which refer to an assembly taking place in a

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temple or divine context; (3) deducing the exact purpose of
the temple/divine assembly in each context, be it judicial,
administrative, or worshipful; (4) grouping these purposes
to arrive at a range of assembly functions from which we can
deduce the significance or role of assemblies as a part of
the temple cult.

In order to add breath to this study, synonyms or terms
with contextual relevance were also compiled and analyzed.
From this range of word- and contextual-studies we were able
to deduce the following: (1) the bulk of citations regarding
human temple assemblies refer either to judicial or
administrative boards; (2) there was no apparent
intermingling of divine and human assemblies, in fact,
divine assemblies took place in a temple area where only the
king or chief ruler could venture; (3) there is no
compelling evidence that any temple assemblies involved non­
professional, non-temple-related personnel. From this it
appears that the general population (including the middle
class) had little role in either the governing or worship of
the major state/city temples from which we have records. In
short, the sources at our disposal did not permit us to
verify our hypothesis regarding congregational worship in
Ancient Near Eastern Temples.

II. Previous studies.

The earliest studies of the term assembly were done
from legal and lexical viewpoints, seeking to establish the
role of this body and its composition from such texts as the Code of Hammurabi (CH)\(^3\). For example, A. Walther\(^4\) noted that puḫrum is not synonymous with the elders, or "the city" itself, and debated whether in some contexts it had the sense of "public" (CH 5, CH 202). When a legal puḫrum occurred in association with a temple, it was for the purpose of giving oaths; in these cases puḫrum members were not necessarily temple officials (CT IV la 2).

As noted above, Jacobsen\(^5\) raised the discussion of assembly to a new plane by speculating regarding its role in the evolution of government. Drawing from myth and epic, which depicted the gods ruling themselves and the affairs of men through the vehicle of assemblies, Jacobsen proposed that, because men fabricate in divine interactions a reflection of themselves and their culture, the divine assemblies were indicative of prehistoric/preliterate human governing assemblies in Mesopotamia. Although their function and importance were supplanted by the "strong man" rulership of kings in later historical periods, Jacobsen suggested that the ancient human assemblies resembled a primitive democracy, not an autocracy. In a later paper,\(^6\)

\(^3\) Unless otherwise noted, all abbreviations follow those in the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary.


\(^6\) Early Political Development, ZA 52 (1957) pp. 91-140 and Toward the Image of Tammuz pp. 132-156.
Jacobsen buttressed his view of Mesopotamian political development during the pre-Sargonic period by tracing in literary texts a shift from simple assemblies operating by consensus to kingship maintained by armed force.

Following these two works, some general discussions appeared in the literature. Wolf researched early Hebrew culture and delineated the functions of political assemblies into four areas: (1) Representative [when the population is too large or wide-spread for all to be present]. (2) Judicial [handling lawsuits and legal matters]. (3) Legislative [making decisions for war and peace]. (4) Executive [punishing criminals]. E. A. Speiser published a helpful general overview of the relation of the king, law codes, religion, and the assembly to Mesopotamian law. Geoffrey Evans studied the assemblies of Uruk and Kaniš and noted a two-tiered structure in them, where one tier was a small group of elders and second was comprised of the rest of the [free] men [of the city/region]. Within this context he discusses the rise of kingship, internal/external pressures on democracy, and special-interest groups within

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the assembly. Malamat\textsuperscript{10} compared the assemblies of the *Gilgamesh* and *Agga* epic with those called by King Rehoboam at the division of the Israelite kingdom. Jacobsen\textsuperscript{11} published a tablet recording a murder trial held by the Nippur assembly which gives insights into the interrelation of the king, law codes, legal proceedings and rulings of the assembly, including execution of the verdict.

A serious challenge was presented to Jacobsen's model by Nel Bailkey,\textsuperscript{12} who traced the political history of Mesopotamia and compared it to the Greek stages of monarchy, oligarchy, tyranny, and democracy. Bailkey noted that our certainty about Mesopotamian political models was adversely influenced by chance discoveries and gaps in the historical data. Moreover, he noted a tension between oligarchy and monarchy in the assembly and proposed that this was the reason why "true" democracy never developed in Mesopotamia as it did in Greece.

Mullen studied the notion of governing assemblies in neighboring contemporary cultures to Mesopotamia\textsuperscript{13} and


concluded that assemblies in (Ugaritic) Canaan and early Israel were non-democratic and merely functioned as sounding-boards for the decrees of its leader. Unlike Jacobsen’s Mesopotamian model, no consensus was sought; the role of the assembly members was simply to carry out the decrees of the leader.

A recent work by Hanoch Reviv\textsuperscript{14} offers an extensive and up-to-date bibliography but does not touch on our interests, other than providing a convenient summary of major texts which refer to elders in Mari and elsewhere in Mesopotamia.

As can be seen, past work on the Mesopotamian assembly has emphasized the political/legal assembly and has not broached the issue of ritual/cultic temple assemblies (one exception to this is the \textit{kınıştu-keneset} proposal of Moshe Weinfeld, which will be reviewed at length later). It was the purpose of this research to attempt to fill in this gap, should sources permit.

Chapter 2.

Puḫrum-relevant literature by genre:

Primary Sumerian textual sources.

1. Sumerian.
1.1 Myth and Epic.
1.1.1 The Gilgamesh Cycle.
1.1.1.1 Gilgamesh and Agga.

1) \texttt{lú-kin-gi₄-a-ag-ga-dumu-en-me-bara-gi₄-e-si-ke₄}
The envoys of Agga, the son of Enmebaragesi

2) \texttt{kiši^ki-ta 'gilgameš-ra unu^ki-še mu-un-ši-súg-eš}
Proceeded from Kish to Gilgamesh in Erech.

3) \texttt{gilgameš igi-ab-ba-uru-na-ka}
Gilgamesh before the elders of his city

4) \texttt{inim ba-an-gar inim i-kin-kin-e}
Put the matter, seeks out the word:

5-7) (Corvée work is described)

8) \texttt{é-kiši^ki-še gú nam-ba-gá-gá-an-dè-en tukul ga-àm-
ma'-sig-gi-en-dè-en}
"... Let us not submit to the house of Kish, let us
smite it with weapons."

Römer: "... Will we subject ourselves to the house of
Kish? Should we not [rather] smite it with
weapons?"

\footnote{Römer notes the majority of texts read \texttt{nam-ba-an-}
instead of this prefix. This results in a subtle, but
significant alternate translation of the text, as noted.}
9) **ukkin-gar-ra-ab-ba-uru-na-ka**
   The convened assembly of the elders of his city

10) **'gilgameš-ra mu-na-ni-ib-gi₅-gi₆**,  
    Answers Gilgamesh in it:

14) **é-kiši₉*-šē gū ga-ȃm-gá-gá-an-dē-en ₂²tukul nam-ba-sig-ge-en-dē-en**
    "... Let us submit to the house of Kish, let us not smite it with weapons."
    Römer: "... Will we subject ourselves to the house of Kish? Should we not [rather] smite it with weapons!"

15) **'gilgameš en-kul-aba₉*-a-ke₉**,  
    Gilgamesh, the lord of Kullab,

16) **'inanna-ra nir-gál-la-e**
    Who performs heroic deeds for the goddess Inanna,

17) **inim-ab-ba-uru-na-ke₉, šà-šè nu-um-gid**
    Took not the words of the elders of his city.

18) **2-kam-ma-šē 'gilgameš en-kul-aba₉*-a-ke₉**,  
    A second time Gilgamesh, the lord of Kullab,

19) **igi-guruš-uru-na-ke₉, inim ba-an-gar inim i-kin-kin-e**
    Before the fighting men of his city put the matter, seeks out the word:

    "... Do not submit to the house of Kish, let us smite

---

² The indirect object refers either to "in the assembly" or "regarding the question at hand."
it with weapons."

Römer: "... Will we subject ourselves to the house of Kish? Should we not [rather] smite it with weapons?"

24) ukkin-gar-ra-guruš-uru₃-na-ka ³gilgamesš mu-un-na-ni-
ib-ši₄-gi₄

The convened assembly of the fighting men of his city answer Gilgamesh:

25) gub-gub-bu-dè tuš-tuš-ù-dè³

"To continually stand at attention, to continually be assigned to a post.

26) ₃dumu-lugal-la da-ri-e-dè

To go with the king's son,

27) hāš anše dab₃-dab₃-bé-dè

To continually urge on the donkey,

28) a-ba zi bi mu-un-tuku-e-šè

Who has wind (enough) for that?

29) e-kiši₄išè gu nam-ba-an-gar-re-en-zé-en ⁴štukul ga-
    àm-ma'₅-sig-ši₅-en-dè-en

'Do not submit to the house of Kish, let us smite it with weapons!"

Römer: "... You should not subject yourselves to the house of Kish, should we not [rather] smite it with weapons!"

---

3 The translation of this and the next three lines follow the suggestions of Jacobsen, AJA 53 (1949), p. 17, and describe the military service into which the young men would be pressed if Uruk subjects itself to Agga.
40) u₂-ba ˹gilgameš en-kul-aba₂-k₇-ke₄

... Then Gilgamesh, the lord of Kullab,

41) in[im]-guruš-uru-na-šē ša-ga-ni an-ḫul ḫa-ra-ni ba-an-zalag

At the word of the fighting men of his city his heart rejoiced, his spirit brightened.

In Kramer’s translation, Gilgamesh first approaches the elders of the city, seeking their approval to rebel against Agga. When they refuse, he goes over their heads directly to the fighting men, and wins their approval. With the consent of the men who will actually risk their lives to support him, he can then revolt.

Römer’s translation puts a different emphasis on the dual assembly: Gilgamesh first approaches the elders of the city, seeking their approval to rebel against Agga. They approve, but Gilgamesh is not comfortable with only their support, so he also goes to the fighting men to win their approval. Since they do not want to be stuck with military service any more than the old men want to be subjected to agricultural corvée service, they approve Gilgamesh’s revolt. With the approval of both parties, Gilgamesh can then revolt.

1.1.1.2 Gilgamesh and Huwawa.

The Sumerian version is of note because it does not mention the council of elders of Uruk (Kramer, JAOS 64, p. 15), yet the Akkadian version does (see below). In the closest parallel Sumerian section, Gilgamesh recruits fifty single males who have no dependents to accompany him, but does not seek or receive either advice or farewell from any elders or other gathering. While the assembly is surely a pre-historic institution, the addition of assembly scenes in later recensions probably shows that the powers and scope of assemblies broadened over time, so that editors embellished the epics with assembly protocols at points where their contemporary culture dictated their need.

Kramer discusses the literary significance of the text in The Epic of Gilgamesh and its Sumerian Sources: A Study in Literary Evolution, JAOS 64 (1954) pp. 7-23, 83. Several important articles on this epic appear in Garelli, Gilgames et sa legende (Paris: 1960), but they do not touch on the
assembly issue because they concentrate on the Sumerian version.


1.1.2 Sumerian Flood Story (CBS 10673 + 10867) OB, Nippur.

Enki discloses to Ziusdura the "word of the assembly" to destroy mankind:

155) na-de,-ga-mu gizz[al ḫé-im-ši-ak]
(Pay attention to my instructions:

156) DAG?-me-a a-ma-ru ugu-KAB-d[ug,ga ..] ba-ù[r ...]
On all dwellings(?), over the capitals the storm will [sweep].

157) numun-nam-lú-u, ḫa-lam-e {x}[ . . . . . . ]
The destruction of the descent of mankind [ . . . ],

158) di-til-la inim pu-ūḫ-ru-[um . . . . . ]
The final sentence, the word of the assembly,

159) inim-dug, †-ga an `en-[lil `nin-ḫur-sag-gá-ke₄]
The word spoken by An and En[lil and Ninhursag],

160) nam-lugal-bi bal-bi {x}[ . . . . . . . ]
The overthrowing of the kingship [ . . . ]

Note: Refers to the command to destroy mankind as "the verdict, the command of the assembly of the gods" in literary parallel with "the directive of An and Enlil."

The signs here also can be read as du₁₁-du₁₁.
1.1.3 The Myth of Zu.

Beginning in Tablet II, line 6 in the OB version, we have an assembly of the Igigi.

Context: The Anzu bird has stolen the tablets of destiny.

3) ú-te-es-ši kúl-la-at ka-li-šu-nu i-gi-gi
   The Igigi in their entirety were confused,

4) ki-is-šú iš-ta-ḫa-at na-mu-ur-ra-as-sú
   the sanctuary divested itself of its halo,

5) i-šu ma-tim ip-ta-na-aḫ-ḫu-ru a-na ṭe-mi-im
   the gods of the land assembled together for direction,

6) ʾA-nu-um pa-šu i-pu-ša-am
   Anu opened his mouth,

7) is-sa-aq-qā-ra-am a-na i-li ma-ri-šu
   he spoke to the gods his sons

Anu is seeking someone to go and slay Anzu and retrieve the tablets. Several gods are asked, but they decline.

29) ip-p[a]-aš-ḫu-ma [x x x]-ū i-šu mi-il-kam
    the gods calmed down and [exchanged] advice,

30) pa-aḫ-ru i-gi-gu [(?] lu gi-[i]m (?)-ru ṭa-al-ḫu-ma
    the gods assembled . . . . troubled,

31) be-el uz-nim a-ši-ib ZU + AB [x x ū-še-]et-bu-šum
    the lord of wisdom, the dweller of the Deep (Ea), they
    [made] rise up to him,5

5 Note the probable pun here: Ea is both called up from the deep, and probably made to stand to address Anu and the assembly.
32) \(\text{a-wa-at } \text{li-ib-bi-šu } [x \, x \, x \, a-na \, a-b] \text{i-šu is-sa-qar-šum}\)  
the thought of his heart [ ] he spoke to his father,

33) \(\text{ú-ud-di mi-qí-z[u \, x \, x \, x]} \text{4zi-im lu-ve-di i-na pu-uḫ-ri}\)  
I have decided upon [his] downfall [the vanquisher] of

34) \(\text{iš-mu-ú i-l[u \, ma-tim \, an-ni-a-am q]á-ba-a-šu}\)  
(When) the gods of the land heard [these] his words,

35) \([x \, x \, x \, i]t \text{ (?)}-ru-[ru-ma iš-ši-qū] \text{ ši-pí-šu}\)  
[they . . . . . . and kissed] his feet.

36) \([x \, x \, ša \text{ (?)}] \text{4MAH N[I]N [ú]-šú-r[a-t]i šu-ur-bu-za}\)  
i-ta-wu i-na pu-uḫ-ri

[ ] the pre-eminence of Mah, mistress of planning, he
(Ea) proclaimed in the assembly.

37) \([x \, x \, x \, x] \text{ ga-aš-ra-am šu-pa-am na-ra-am-ki}\)  
["Call] the potent, the resplendent, your beloved,

38) \([ra]-ap-ša-am i-ir-tim mu-ta-ab-bi-lu si-bi-tam qá-ab-li\)  
the wide-chested, who leads the Seven to combat at once,

39) \("N[IN.G]ÍR.SU \text{ ga-aš-ra-am š[u-pa-a]m na-ra-am-ki}\)  
Ningirsu, the potent, the resplendent, your beloved,

40) \([r]a-ap-ša-am i-ir-tim m[u]-ta-ab-bi-lu si-bi-tam\)  
qá-ab-li

the wide-chested, who leads the Seven to combat."

41) \([iš-m]é \text{ (?)}-e-ma an-ni-a-am qá-ba-šu šu-ur-bu-tum \text{4MAH an-nam i-pu-uš}\)  
(When) pre-eminent Mah heard these his words, she agreed,

42) \([a-n]a \text{ i-pi-iš pi-ša iḫ-đu i-lu ma-tim it-ru-ru-ma}\)  
iš-ši-qū ši-pí-ša \text{ (?)}

at her words the gods of the land rejoiced, excited,
y they kissed her feet,

43) \(iš-si-i-ma i-na pu-uḫ-ri-im š[a \text{ (?)}] i-li\)  
she summoned in the assembly of the gods

44) \(\text{ma-ra-ša na-ra-am li-ib-bi-ša ú-wa-e-e-r-šu is-sa-qar-šum}\)  
her son, the beloved of her heart, she instructed him,

she says to him:
45) ma-ḫ[a]r a-nim ū "Da.gan.[a-n]a ti-lu-tim
"Before Anu and Dagan, to help
46) w[a(?)]-a[r(?)]-ka-at pa-ar-ši-šu-nu i-ta-wu-ū i-na
pu-uḫ-ri
after(?) they proclaimed their regulations6 in the
assembly,
47) [I-gi]-gi-mi kūl-la-at-zu-nu ū-wa-al-li-id
I gave birth to all of the Igigi.

Significance: The text is quite fragmentary. Mah, a
female, plays a major role in the assembly. The Igigi are
referred to via the generic term "gods of the land," which
implies there is an unspecified, but large number of gods in
the divine assembly (cf. "people of the land"). Note also
the "kissing of feet" in praise.

Source: B. Hruška, Der Mythenadler Anzu in Literatur und
Vorstellung des alten Mesopotamien (Budapest, 1975).
Sumerian version: UET 6, n. 2; AASOR 23 (1943-4), n. 41;
and Civil, RA 60 (1966), p. 92. OB version: Jean
Nougayrol, RA 46 (1952) Ningirsu vainqueur de Šū, pp. 87-97;
14ff; RA 46 (1952), pp. 25-41 and LKA 1. Assyrian version:
CT 15 (1902), pp. 39-40 with K 3454+. Fragments of the text
145ff and RA 51 (1957), p. 107ff. Lambert AfO 18, p. 401
and STT 1, 19, 21-22. See also Gadd, Iraq 28, p. 119f.

1.1.4 Lugalbanda Epic.

225) ku̱E.İB-ūr-ra ki-ūs-sa igi-tab-unken-na
[Describing Utu:] He is the firmly founded siege-
shield, the 'blinker' of the assembly,

6 Cf. CAD A2 s.v. amû A 3 b 2', and Landsberger, AfO 2
(1924), p. 67.
226) **kū̂E.ÍB-ūr-ra ép-ni-ga-ta è igi-tab-guruš-a**

He is the one who brings forth the siege-shield from the magazine, the ‘blinker’ of the young warriors.

.....

290) unken-gar-ra-si-sá-a-na

In his convened and just assembly,

291) šà-é-gal-la kur-gal-gim ki ḫé-ūs-a-ba

in the heart of the great quarters, which resting firmly upon the earth like a great mountain, as it is indeed,

292) en-me-er-kár dumu-“utu-ke₄

Enmerkar, the son of Utu

293) eme-sig-‘inanna ba-ni-in-kú

slandered Inanna:" (quote follows)..toBe added to the source text here.


1.1.5 Enmerkar and Ensuhkešdanna.

114) **kin-gi₄-a en-me-er-kár en-suḫ-keš-da-an-na-ke₄**

The messenger of Enmerkar to Ensuhkešdanna,

---

7 Sol Cohen disagrees with Wilcke’s translation of si-sá-a-na as the verbal form "as he stepped up". The form is an adjectival, not verbal construction (the verb is ba-ni-in-kú in line 293), qualifying the nature of the assembly. Compare the parallel puḫur ša grandmother in *CAD* § p.216, s.v. šitu in bilingual section.

8 *eme-sig(-ga) = karšu. kú = akālu = "to feed" (with -ni-), "to denounce" *CAD* akālu 7d.
115) *gi₆-parₓ-kù ki-kù-kù-ga-ni-šè*
   To his holy *gipar*, his very holy place,

116) *ki-kù-kù-ga ba-da-an-TUŠ-a DAGAL(?)-bi ba-na-te*
   To the very holy place where he was in session, he
   approached him,

117) *en-suḫ-kešda-an-na-ke₄ á-ág-gá gu ba-an-dé inim*
   Ensuḫkesadaşna asked for advice; searched for an answer.

118) *išib lú-maḫ gudu₄ giršiga gi₆-parₓ-ra til-la*
   The *išib*, *lú-maḫ*, *gudu₄*, and *giršiga*-attendants who
   dwell in the *gipar*

119) *gù x mu-ni-in-gar šà mu-da-ad-kūš-ù*
   Gathered together and took counsel.

120) *a-na ga-an-na-ab-bé a-na ga-an-na-ad-dé*
   "What shall I say to him? What shall I say to him?*
   (quotation continues) . . . .

128) *unken-gar-ra-si-sa-na mu-un-na-ni-ib-gi₄-gi₄*
   The convened and justⁿ assembly answered him in it:¹⁰

129) *za-e-me-en unu-ki-ga-šè dub-sag-ta*
   "You precede (the lord of) Uruk.
   (quotation continues) . . . .

Note that Enmerkar goes to the temple for advise, and the
temple attendants (probably in the name of the god) provide
it. The wording of line 119 parallels Lugalbanda 290 and is
probably an idiom.


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⁹ See note on this construction in Lugalbanda line 290
  above.

¹⁰ See note on this construction in Gilgamesh and Agga,
  line 10 above.
1.1.6 Enki and the World Order.

17) [u₄] šid-e iti é-ba ku₄-ku₄ mu šu-du₄-du₄-da
   ... you entered the house in order to make perfect the name.

18) mu šu-du₄, ukkin-e eš-bar sum-mu-da
   in order to make perfect the name, the assembly gave the decision (purussû)

19) eš-bar ku₄-da si sá-e-da
   so that the decision, the report (šipru) daily is prepared (to make straight, to put in order).

341) gu mu-un-gar uš-e si bí-in-sá
   He fixed the (measuring)-cord, ordered the foundations,

342) á-ukkin-na-ka é bí-in-gar šu-luh-e si bí-in-sá
   He erected a house at the side of the assembly, ordered the purification rites,

Source: Carlos A. Benito (1969) thesis; Green manuscript, U. Mus. files.

1.1.7 Nungal in the Ekur.

28) ‘nun-gal bára-gal-mah-bi-a zà-ge mu-un-di-ni-ib-sí
   Nungal has taken her seat in its great and lofty bára

11 Jin Sup Kim, in his Ph.D. thesis BARAG in Sumerian Literature: A Study of Historical Semantics with Emphasis on its Referent and Cultural Function (Annenberg Research Institute, 1991), argues that parakku is better translated as adytum (from the Greek, meaning "not to be entered"), i.e., the innermost room of a temple or shrine. Previous work has usually rendered parakku as a "dais," or "smaller structures upon which a throne could be placed to lift the seat of the king (or deity) above the level of its
29) é-a műš-bé dûr im-mi-in-gar kalam im-ta-ge-né
She sits in the house on its..., she strengthens the
land,

30) lugal-ra šà-unken-na-ka igi mu-na-ni-gál
She has set her eye upon the king in the midst of the
assembly,

31) erím-gál-la-ni giš-rabš(LUGAL) mi-ni-ge-né en-nu-un-
gá-ni nu-tü-l-e
She clamps down upon his evil (enemy), she does not
cease to imprison (the evil),

Notes: "In the heart/midst of the assembly" refers to the
position of the king in the assembly (at its center).


1.1.8. Gudea inscriptions.
1.1.8.1 Gudea Statue B.
3,1) zi-ša(g)-gál-la šu-dagal-dugš,-ga
Abundantly supplied with the life-breath
3,2) ʿšul-ša(g)-ga-ka-ge
of Šulšagga,
3,3) sag-zí(g) ukkin-na PA-è-a
which at first among the multitude (ukkin-na) had
manifested

surroundings." (CAD D p. 166).
3,4) "nin-giš-zi(d)-da
Ningišzida ....

Use of ukkin in Neo-Sumerian to mean "multitude" or "crowd" in the general sense of "all humanity" (Thureau-Dangin translates as der Menge (der Menschen)).

Source: SAK, Thureau-Dangin, 1907 = VAB I.

1.1.8.2 Gudea Statue C.
In curse formula at end of inscription:
9/10) "inanna / nin-kur-kur-ra-ke₂,
    Inanna, the lady of all the lands,
11/12) sag-gá-ni ukkin-na / nam₂(ḫé-ṣ-ma-ku₂)-e
    may she curse his head in the assembly!
13/14/15) gi₃gu-za-gub-ba-na / suḫuš-bi₁ / na-an-gi-né
    may she not make firm the foundation of his established throne
16/17) numun-a-ni ḫé-til / ba-{a}-ni₄{ḫé-ku₃}
    May his seed perish! May his reign be cut off!

In the context a king, not a common man, is in mind ("may his reign be cut off!" etc.)

Source: Steible, NBW; U. Mus. files.
1.2 Legal/administrative.

1.2.1 Adultery trial.

12/13) ugu.lú.ka in.dab₂ / su.lú.ka giš.má.a

he caught her upon a man / on the body of the man, on
the bed

14/15) in.keš / pu.úḫ.ru.um.šē in.īl

he tied her / (and) carried (them) to the assembly.

16/17) pu.úḫ.ru.um.e / mu lú ugu.na

The assembly, because with a man upon her (sic)

18/19) al.dab₂.ba.aš / kù.dam.tak₄.ni [ ]

she was caught, his/her divorce money ....

20/21) i.ni.in.gar.r{e.eš} / {kisi₄.ni?} [mu]nsub.bar!ra₁²

(they) decided; her pudendum ....

22/23) um[b]i n in.tar.ru.ne / kiri₄(KA).ni ₅#kak.si.sá

in.bûru.uš

they shaved; they bored her nose with an arrow

24/25) uru₄ nigin.e.dē / lugal.e

(and) to be led around the city / the king

26/27) [ba].an.sum / [di.dab₂.b]a lugal.la.kam

gave her over. It was a decision of the king.

Dijk read the text as showing a common-law wife accusing her
husband of homosexuality before the assembly, in which case
the assembly grants her a divorce and alimony, and the king
punishes the man.

₁² Perhaps "half of her head" and "hair of the body and
1.2.2 Murder trial.

15/16) di-bi ī-si-inši-šē / igi lugal-la-šē ba-DU

Their case was taken to Isin before the king.

17/18) 'Ur-琵Nin-urta lugal-e / di-bi pu-ūḫ-ru-um

King Ur-Ninurta / ordered their case

19) Nibrūḫi-ka dabš-bi-da bi-in-du, ..... 

to be accepted for trial in the assembly of Nippur ....

Nine men then address the assembly, asking for the death sentence for the men who killed the man, as well as his wife, who covered up the crime. Two other men question whether the wife should be killed since her involvement is less direct. The assembly responds that since she did not value her husband, her crime is worse, and they order both the men and wife killed.


1.2.3 Rape Case.

The master of a slave-girl seeks redress from the assembly of Nippur after another man raped her. The accused denies the charge, but witnesses are called in to confirm it.
pu-úḫ-ru-um Nibrū̂ki-ka / igi-ne-ne in-gar-re-eš-ām
the assembly of Nippur / addressed13 (the litigants)

mu gemē lugal-da-nu-me-a / a(!?) bī-in-gi, bī-in-du14
because he deflowered the slave-girl without (her)
owner's (knowledge),

1/2 ma-na kū-babbar Lugal-me-lām-ke,
1/2 mina of silver Lugal-melamke

'Gu-ku-za-na lugal-a-ni-ra lá-e-dē15
to Kuguzana16 her owner (he) will pay, they declared

[pun-uḫ-ru-um-e di-d[ab,...] / [d]i mi-in-
dab₂-bé -x
The assembly instituted for them the judicial process ...


1.2.4 Manual of Sumerian Legal Forms.

*Iš-me-*Da-gan lugal-e king Išme-Dagan
pu-úḫ-ru-u{m} in the assembly of
Nibrûki-ka Nippur

13 literally igi ... gar means "to look at."

14 The verb bī-in-du₁, should appear in line 25' rather than here (noted by Jacobsen).

15 The verb bī-in-du₁, of line 23' should appear at this point in the text (noted by Jacobsen).

16 The name appears as Kuguzana elsewhere; this inversion is a scribal error in the copy.

1.3 Hymns.

1.3.1 Lament over the destruction of Ur.

18) di-til-la inim pu-úh-ru-um d[ingir-re-ne-ka]  
By the verdict, the command of the assembly of the gods,

19) inim-du₂₉-ga An "En-líl-lá-ka-{ta} [...]  
the directive of An and Enlil ....
20) **Uri**'ki-ma nam-l[ugal-bi .... ba-an-tûm]

[was the] k[ing]ship of Ur [... carried away].

Significance: Note parallelism: assembly = directive.

Source: STVC 25, 18-20, cited in Falkenstein Gerichtsurkunden I, [He sees this as a stereo-typed phrase], and Jacobsen Tammuz, p. 168.

Lines 143ff record Ningal's appeal:

152) **min-kam-ma-še pu-úḫ-ru-um ki saq-ki-a ba-da-GÁL-la**

Again unto the assembly, where the people were still
(tarrying) on the ground,

153) **'a-nun-na e-ne-èm-KA-kéš-da-bi ba-an-da-dûr-ru-NE-eš-àm**

the Anunnaki gods being still seated after they had
given the binding promise,

154) **úr ḫé-im-ma-BU-BU á(!) ḫé-im-ma-lá-lá**

did I verily drag (my) legs, did I verily stretch out
(my) arms.

155) **an-ra a-i-bí-mà me-e ḫé-im-ma-na-dé**

I verily poured out my tears before An;

156) **'mu-ul-lil-ra nî-mu šà-ne-ša, ḫé-im-ma-ag**

verily I myself mourned before Enlil.

157) **urú-mu nam-ba-gul-lu ḫé-me-ne-dug,**

"May my city not be destroyed!" I said indeed to them;

158) **urí'ki-mu nam-ba-gul-lu ḫé-me-ne-dug,**

"May Ur not be destroyed!" I said indeed to them;

159) **ukù-bi nam-ba-til-e ḫé-me-ne-dug,**

"May its people not be killed!" I said indeed to them.
160) an-e e-ne-êm-bi ba-ra-mu-da-gur
But An the while never bent toward that word;

161) 'mu-ul-lil-le i-šag,-hé-âm-ba šâ-mu ba-ra-mu-un-ḫun
Enlil with a "It is pleasing, let it be!" never soothed my heart.

162) urú-mu gul-gul-lu-ba á-bi ḫé-im-ma(!)-an-ág-eš
The destruction of my city they verily gave in commission;

163) uríšu gul-gul-lu(!)-ba á-bi ḫé-im-ma(!)-an-ág-eš
the destruction of Ur they verily gave in commission;

164) ukù-bi ug₅-gi-da na-âm-ba ḫa-ba-an-tar-ri-eš
that its people be killed, as its fate they verily determined.

Significance: Shows a failed appeal process and the final power of An and Enlil.


1.3.2 Hymn to Nanna

14) 'en-lil an-ki-ka' mu-zu mu-kù-ga mu mi-ri-in-pà
Enlil has called (you) a name in heaven and earth, your name, a holy name,

15) dumu-nun-e nam-gal-zu an-ki-a pa-è im-mi-in-è
O princely son, your greatness in heaven and earth is manifest,
28

16) **unkin-ma₇ nam-ën-lîl-lâ-na sag-e-e₈ mu-ra-an-rîg,**
the lofty assembly has granted his Enlil-ship17 to
you,18

17) **ën-ki-ke₄ ki-e₇-erîdû₅ ki-ta nam-men¹-nam-ma₇-zu**
mu-ri-In-tar

and Enki, from the site19 of the sanctuary of Eridu,
has decreed for you your majesty, your en destiny.


1.3.3 Hymn in Honor of King Ibbisuen of Ur.

1) **en me <PA>.GAN nu-di i-lim u, men-gal-la**
Lord, indestructive image20, awe-inspiring light,
.... great crown,

2) **šûl ‘EN.ZU u, gi₇-ḫé e₇-a-še₇ ‘en-lîl-le îl-la**
Youthful Suen, raised up by Enlil as a light rising up
on the vault of the sky,

---

17 cf. **illilûtu,** **CAD I** p. 85.

18 Charpin: "The lofty assembly, at which were present
all of the divine powers."

19 "The ablative-instrumental postposition -ta is used
with inanimate beings only. Direction away from a person is
expressed with ki... [-ta]." Marie-Louise Thomsen, *The
Sumerian Language: An Introduction to its History and
Grammatical Structure.* Mesopotamia: Copenhagen Studies in
p. 140, §205.

20 Sol Cohen favors this translation for me in this
context.
3) su-lim-dagal idim-e diri "nin-lîl-le tu-da
Wide-spreading majestic light, gliding upon the deep,
born of Ninlil,

4) dingir mûš-a-ni UN.UN unken-kur-kur-ra DU-[x]
God, whose appearance is ...., ..[...] in the assembly
of the lands....

5) iti4(=U4.4ANNA) x ÿi-bi4.EU.ZU-mu
The light of the moon ...., my Ibbisuen, ..[...].

In line 4, Sjöberg takes mûš = zimu, but it can be read as:

"Inanna a-ni UN. UN unken .......
Inanna, ?? the peoples (nišû) of all the assembled
lands ..."

Source: UM 29-16-43; Sjöberg, Orientalia Suecana 19-20

1.3.4 Šulgi hymns.
1.3.4.1 Šulgi C.

53) ka-sa, nundum-ma-na ti-la-me-èn
I, who (possess) an eloquent mouth and living(?) lips,

54) šà-mu dub-gal-gal giš-ḫu[r x x]
my heart, a large tablet, (with) drawings ....

55) inim-ma muš-bi dù-[x x x]
words ....

56) DI á-gál-la-ta {lû} [x x] á-bi-šē in-ga-z[u]
I know judgment knowledgeable ....

57) {pu}-uḫ-ru-um ki ad-maḫ gi₄-gi₄-da
In the assembly, the place where lofty counsel is taken,
58) **un-sag-gi, gu-si-a-gá(?)**
among my assembled black-headed people,

59) **sukkal-e inim-kur-kur-ra giš-la-la-da-bi**
the "vizier," the words of the lands, ..... 

60) {x}--{zu} **unken-ta igi-sag-gá**
..... from the assembly selected(?)

61) **gu, sag ki-x-ka téš-šè tag-[a]g-g[im(?)]**
like a leading ox ..... 

62) **gaba-ri-inim-ma 1(?)-[pàd(?)-dè(?)]**
the words of the adversary ..... 

63) **gu,gim gu-nun [mu-di-ib-be]**
like an ox I would bel[ow it to him]

64) **e-re-bu-um x [**
The "intruder" ..... 

65) **KA-ta(?)--[**
(about eight lines are missing)

Note footnote 64 in Klein, Šulgi Hymns (TAPS 71), p. 16:
"In the parallel hymn (ŠC), Šulgi stresses his eloquence and leadership in the general assembly (puhrum) (lines 53-65), as well as his just verdicts in the court (lines 74-81)."
Source: J. Klein, U. Mus. manuscript on file.

1.3.4.2 Šulgi D.

Among a series of blessings pronounced by Enlil upon Šulgi:

393) **šà-za ša-húl-la ḫé-in-gál nam-ba-kúš-U-dè-èn**

May joy be placed in your heart, may you never grow weary!
394) lugal-zì-sâ-gâl-unken-zà ḫê-me-en
May you be the 'life-giving king' of your assembly!

395) nam-tì-[l]e'-zu gu-gim ḫê-[m]û-mû še-gim ḫê-mû-mû
May your life flourish like herbs, may it flourish like grain!

Note, p. 123: "For zì-sâ-gâl see now Falkenstein, ZANF 24, 10ff. It is followed by a clear UNKEN sign, although we would expect here uru, which normally occurs in similar context."


1.3.4.3 Šulgi F.

30) u,=ba an-nê ki-en-gi-ra nam bî-in-tar" kalam-e gû ba-
    an-dê
At that time, An determined the fate in Sumer, (and)
called to the land;

31) "aš-îm-babbar-re unken-nê ḫûl-[a b]a-ta-an-è
Ašimbabbar brought out (the word) to the (divine?)21
    assembly in joy,

32) me-a ki-{gi}-LI ba-[x x x]-UL-x [ ]
"The ... the place of .... (Content of speech follows
    in broken context)

Source: J. Klein, U. Mus. manuscript on file.

21 So noted by Klein. Given the reference to kalam in the previous line, we suggest that the human population of the land of Sumer may be in view, rather than a divine assembly. Clearer parallel occurrences of kalam and ukkin are noted elsewhere (1.4.2. Ewe and Grain, etc.).
1.3.4.4 Šulgi 0.

16) i,–nun-kù a-zal-le-gal-gal-la kun-zu-šè ku₄-mušen ki-ús-sa

Pure "Princely-River" (of) great (fresh) water (streams), your reservoir (teams with) fish and birds, firmly founded;

17) bàd-nigin-na uru-ki-gá-ra-bi udûg-₂⁻ᵗukul ki-ús-sa

Its city, built within the encircling walls, is an udug-mace, a weapon, firmly founded.

18) unken-gar-ra un-ša-ra-ba "šur₄(ÍB)" ki-ús-sa

The multitude in its convened assembly is a siege shield,²² firmly founded.

19) ki-en-gi-ir-a ki-tuš-gá-ra-bi nî-gal ki-ús-sa

Its well established settlements in Sumer (command) great terror, firmly founded;

20) kur-kur áb-zi-gim lu-lu-a-bi

Its lands, as numerous as fecund cows ....

Source: J. Klein, AOAT 25 p. 276; SLTNî 79.

1.3.4.5 Šulgi X.

46) 'inanna dumu-'suen-na-ke,

Inanna, the daughter of Sin,

47) šul-gi dumu-'nin-súna-ka-ra

For Šulgi, the son of Ninsun,

²² Sol Cohen concludes from this imagery that the assembly sat in a semi-circle (like a heavy siege shield, not a light-weight arm shield) around the leader. For discussion and justification of the translation of "šur₄(ÍB)" as "siege-shield" see Eichler, JAOS 103.1 (1983), p. 95-102.
48) nam mu-ni-ib-tar-re
Decrees the fate (as follows):
49) mè-a igi-šè du-zu gá-me-èn
"In battle I am your leader,
50) šen-šen-na kuš (=SAHAR)-gim tukul-lá-zu-me-èn
In combat I carry your weapon like an armor-bearer,
51) unken-na inim-mud-gál-zu-me-èn
In the assembly I am your advocate,
52) ḫa-ra-an-na zi-šà-gál-zu gá-me-èn
On campaign I am your inspiration.
53) sipa šà-ge-pà-da-x-kù-ga-me-èn
You, the chosen shepherd of the holy temple?
54) lugal ú-a-zi-é-an-na-me-èn
You, the royal provider of the Eanna,

This appears to be a military context, but Klein notes:
"Should our line imply that in the Ur III period the
assembly still had a political function?" (citing Lugalbanda
199, sub 290, etc.). Note the uses of puḫru in a military
context to mean "host," "forces" in Enuma Eliš I 149,
Sennacherib’s Annals, etc.


1.3.5 Sumerian Temple Hymns.
7) abzu tigi-zu me-kam
Abzu, your tigi (musical instrument) is part of the ritual,
8) ezen-tún-gal-zu šu-si-sá-ām
   your great festival bowls are indeed handed out.
9) gur₄-gur₄-gál ki-dingir-ti-la-za
   In your prepared banquet where gods abide,
10) kin-gal kin ki-du₁₀ u₄ nu-dib-bé
   The great kin, the kin, the beautiful place, light enters not.²³
11) é-zà-kešda-zu šità² sá nu-sá
   O temple! Your pure girding has no equal!

Source: Sjöberg, TCS 3; translated with notes from Sol Cohen apud Jin Sup Kim.

1.3.6 Hymn to Inanna (in-nin šà-gur₄-ra).
56) in-nin giš-éš-ur₄ KI.KAL gál-tag₄-tag₄ bar-re K[A] x TAR
   The Mistress who opens inarable land with the ...
57) kú-ka-tar-ra-bi gu-bi nu-zi-zi giri² [x x]
   The braggarts do not 'lift their neck', ...
58) šà-gur₄-ra-ni dím-dím-ma-ni ab-ak in-nin aš-a-ni [x D]IM²
   Her stout heart ..., the Mistress who alone is ..., 
   The exalted in the assembly, sitting on the seat of honor, ... right and left,

²³ Sjöberg takes kin-gal as a building (see his notes).
60) ḫur-sag-[gal an-ba-gin₃ pi-el-lá šu x x mu-lá
A huge mountain, as if it were refuse, she destroys ...

198) DI-DI-zu šu-bal-a nu-ub-zu ib-[ba]-zu zukum-ma
Your ... cannot be changed, your anger is crushing,

199) šu-du₃-ga-zu ni šu nu-ḪÉ x á-āg-gá / dū-du₃-a-zu
an nu-mu-un-na-an-lá
What you have created cannot be ..., ..., order, what
you have build An has not (been able to)
'decrease' it.

200) an-da "en-līl-da lú'-zu-a unken-na gal-gal X /
munus sag-e-eš mu-e-rig,
With An and Enlil ..., in the assembly great ..., woman, you(?) have given as a gift,

201) ka-tēš an "en-līl mu-e-x x gi KALAM šu-zu-uš
dab₃-x
Unison ... An and Enlil ..., giving the land/people
into your hand,

202) inim bí-in-du₃-ga-zu an nu-mu-un-na-an-gi₃,
The word you have uttered An does not ... to/for him,

203) ḫe-ām du₃-ga-zu an-gal nu-[mu-u]n-na-an-BŪR
When you have said 'So be it,' great An does not ...
to/for him,

204) ḫe-ām-zu ḫe-ām gul-lu [x x x] gul-lu
Your "So be it" is "So be it," to(?) destroy ...
destroy.
205) gi₄ unken-na bí-in-du₁₁-ga-z[u] an ūen-līl nu-sāg

When you have said your ... in the assembly, An and Enlil have not scattered it,

206) es-bar ab-bi bí-in-du₁₁-ga-z[u] an-ki-ta nu-kūr-ru

When you have made a decision ..., it cannot be changed in heaven and earth,

Note the implication here that An and Enlil normally have veto over the other gods in the assembly. It is a praiseworthy matter that a lesser god's advice is so good that the higher gods always go along with it. Unfortunately lines 200 and 201 are difficult, as they may contain another possible parallelism between kalam and ukkin.

Source: ZA NF 65 (1975), pp. 182, 196f.

1.3.7 Hymn of Gudea to Baba.

16) nī gūr ūa-nun-gē-ne me-en

You are the (one) attired with awesomeness among the Anunai gods.

17) sipa unken-na ḫi-li-a mu-e-ni-pā-a²⁴

As the shepherd of the assembly in (his) attractiveness you have summoned him.

18) . . . . . . ki-maḥ-a-na mu-ni-zu

. . . . you have recognized him in his lofty position,

²⁴ Following Sjöberg's reading from his lexical card index.
19) .......... \textit{mu-na-an-sum}

.......... you have given him.

......

39) "\textit{ba-ba}, \textit{nin} \textit{sag-ga} (= \textit{rev. 12})

\textit{Baba, head lady,}

40) \textit{nin-mu unkin-na igi mi-ni-il-[la$^{25}$] . . .}

\textit{My lady, in the (divine) assembly you have raised the}
\textit{eye, (you have clothed him with joy)$^{26}$}

41) \textit{lú zi-ša-ga im-mi-ni-pà sipa zid Gù-d[e']-a}

\textit{you have summoned the man with a blessing in the heart,}
\textit{true shepherd Gudea,}

Examples of approval/blessing in the (divine) assembly.

Source: \textit{STVC 36, SAHG 16, R. Jestin, Mélanges Syriens}
(Dussaud Festschrift), p. 583ff.

1.3.8 Execration of Enemies of Iddin-Dagan.

19) \textit{nin-me-lám-huš an-né-du-[da]}

\textit{Queen [Ninisinna] whose melam is awesome, born of An,}

20) \textit{sag-zi-kalam-ma-ka èn-tar-re ukkin-n[a-i]gi-gál}

\textit{Who cares for the righteous of the land, who keeps an}
\textit{eye on the assembly,}

21) \textit{nin-ti-la-ug, ga zi-kalam-ma-šu-du,}

\textit{Queen of the living and the dead, who holds the life of}
\textit{the land in (her) hand,}

\textit{Sjöberg notes "not LA" in his annotated copy of \textit{STVC}.}

\textit{translation from \textit{SAHG}.}
22) nu-gig-ra na-me nu-gub-bu gu-an-né-si ad-gá-gá
Hierodule to whom no one (dares) step up, who sounds
the cry that fills the heaven,


1.3.9 "Man and his God."

113) dingir-mu x x nam-tag-mu igi-mu ù-mi-zu
My god, ... you have let me recognize my sins,

114) ká-[unkin]-ka ḫa-lam-ma-bi dil-baš-bi ga-ām-du₁₁
I shall recount in the gate of [ ... ]²⁷ those of them
that have been forgotten, and those of them which
are visible(?).

115) guruš-me-en ka-tar nam-tag-mu igi-zu-{$ē$} ga-si-il
I, the young man, shall publicly declare my sins before
you!

116) unkin-e û-KU²⁸ IM.DUGUD-gim ḫu-mu-ub-šēg-šēg-e
In the assembly, let tears(!?) flow, like a heavy
downpour (of rain)!

117) é-zu ama-ša-ne-ša₄-mu {ǐr-mu} ḫē-še₄-x-[ ]
Your 'house', let my praying mother continuously
weep(?) for me!

²⁷ In comparing this sign with that in line 116,
Sjöberg does not confirm the broken unken here that Green
read. Sjöberg also questions the reliability of the
translation of the second half of this line.

²⁸ Sjöberg's index card to this line has the note:
"Text F has SA,.ALAN instead of û-KU (in text G)". He also
disagrees with the rendering of "tears."
I, the valiant, may your holy [heart have(?)] pity and mercy on me!

Significance: Most texts are not in touch with the man on the street. This one appears to be, although the text is in poor condition and cryptic.


31 II 25) an-kù-ga ki-nam-tar-ra-nè

At the place of holy An, where destinies are determined,

26) dingir-an-na ba-suₘ-ge-eš-a

the gods of heaven stepped,

27) ‘a-nun-na-keₙ-ne gizzal ba-an-ak-eš

The Anunna have inclined their ears,

28) šà-ba-tuk-àm

šabatukku.

29) unken-gar-ra-ba ḫé-ām ba-nil-ne-eš

In their convened assembly they say "so be it."

1.3.11 Hymn to Inanna. Chiera, SRT 9.

15) ka-āš-maḥ ukkin-na ša-mu-un-bar-re-en

You (Inanna) make the exalted decision in the assembly
16-17) giš-nu₂₁-gim an-ta ša-ukkin-na-ka / zi-du ša-mu-ri-gin erim ša-mu-ni-gub
when the righteous one goes to you in the heart of the assembly like to the light from heaven, the evil one gives up there.


1.3.12 Hymn to Ninurta. Hugo Radau, BE 29 4 Rs.
11) [lu]gal-mu di-zu di-gal-am nu-pà-dè inim-zu ukkin igi nu-bar-re-dam
My king, your judgment is an exalted judgment, no one can discover it, the assembly does not perceive your word.
12) en "nin-urta di-zu di-gal-àm nu-pà-dè inim-zu ukkin igi nu-bar-re-dam
Lord Ninurta, your judgment is an exalted judgment, no one can discover it, the assembly does not perceive your word.

Source: SGT II p. 122ff.; Translation only in Falkenstein, SAHG 2.

1.3.13 Hymn of Išbi‘erra. N 1740 and CBS 14051.
Third ki-ru-gú:
28') ki-in-da-tu lú-alam.ki-ma-ra inim-bi ba-an-na-an-túm
To Kindatu, the man of Elam, they brought this news,
29') an-ša₄-an.ki-e lú-su-ud-āg ba-ab-gi₄
Sudag of Anšan has returned

30') kur im-ma-an-te
(and) approaches the land.

31') [u]gnim-ma-ni pu-úḫ-ru-um-bi
The assembly of his army

32') inim mu-na-ni-ib-bé
he addressed thusly:

33') ki-ru-gū-eša₄-kam-ma
"This is the third kirugu

34') [u]iš-bi-ér-ra-mu engar 'ēn-lil-le
My Išbi’erra, the laborer (uncertain) of Enlil,

35') [x x]á-maḫ mu-na-an-sum
gave to him a superior force [in battle?]

36') [giš-gi]-gál-bi-im [end of fragment]
he is an antiphone(???) ...."


1.4 Wisdom literature.

1.4.1 Creation of the Hoe (giš.al hymn).

56: nin-geštu₄-dagal-la-ke₄ 'nisaba-kam
The lady of broad wisdom, Nisaba

57:²⁹ ukkin-na é-an-na-ka giš.al-tar ba-an-du₁₁
in the assembly, in Eanna, the altar spoke

²⁹ This line follows Sjöberg’s reading on his index card. Behrens does not attempt to translate this line.
58: é-ḫa-mun na-nam giš. al-tar mu-un-da-DU
   It is the Ehamun, the altar accompanied it.

Notes: Highly variant text.
Source: ms. Herman Behrens, U. Mus.

1.4.2 Ewe and Grain (Lahar and Ashnan).
53) laḫar ʾašnam-bi pa-è mu-un-ak-eš
   Thus both Ewe and Wheat were radiant in appearance
54) unken-na ṣé-gál mu-da-an-gál-le-eš
   And among the gathered people they caused abundance,
55) kalam-ma zi šá-gál mu-da-an-gál-le-eš
   And in the Land they brought about well-being,

Note: Interesting use of unken to refer to (civilized) mankind as a whole (note parallelism with kalam line 55).

1.5 Lexical Texts.
1.5.1. Ea tablet I. MSL 14 p. 197. (MA recension: VAT 10172).
42) ke-el LAGAB MIN nap-ḫa-ru
43) MIN LAGAB.LAGAB la-gab min-na-bi MIN
43a) ki-l[i] LAGAB.LAGAB šá Á.KAL.LAGAB.<LAGAB> gi-ip-šu
43b)   pu-ḫḫ-ru
44) ki-in LAGAB.LAGAB nap-ḫa-ru
45) ki-liḫ LAGAB.LAGAB la-gab min-na-bi nap-ḫa-ru
Sources: See also MAOG 11/1/2 p. 104; CAD N, s.v. napharu lexical section ("sum, total, whole, totality").

1.5.2. Ea tablet 3. AOS 53, p. 142.

237) [ba-ra] [KISAL] šu-pár-ru-rum spread out
238) [pa-ar] [KISAL] [šá SA.PÁR sa]-par-ri net (=par,)
239) [ki-sa-al] KISAL ki-sal-lu pu-úḫ-ru
240) [e] [É] [bi-tu] bi-i-tum

1.5.3. HAR.RA = ḫubullu II. MSL 5 p. 51.

10) PA.TE.SI iš-šak-ku city ruler
11) GÁ-bar šá-an-gu-ú priest
12) PA+AL šab-ru-ú municipal overseer
13) um-me-a um-man-nu craftsman
14) URUxBAR pu-úḫ-ru assembly [of craftsmen]\(^{30}\)
15) šid mi-nu-tum number, voting board
16) šid-um-me-a " um-ma-ni-e number or voting board of craftsmen.
17) di di-i-nu judgment, legal decision
18) di-ku, da-a-a-nu judge

Note: CAD M, s.v. minútu lists no references that support the sense of a "voting board" as proposed here by Landsberger.

\(^{30}\)So Landsberger’s note.
1.5.4.  **HAR.RA = ḫubullu IV.**  *MSL 5* p. 158.

99)  **giš-gu-za-me-luḫ-ḫa**

   me-.luḫ-ḫu-ū

   [chair] from Meluhha

100)  **giš-gu-za-má-lah,**

   šá ma-laḫ-ḥi

   [chair] of a boatman

101)  **giš-gu-za-níg-nígin-na**

   ku-us-si pu-uḥ-ri

   chair of the assembly

102)  **giš-gu-za-di-kud**

   " da-a-a-nu

   chair of the judge

103)  **[giš-gu-za-gár]-ba**

   " kar-r[i]

   chair with knobs

The next lines list "Chair covered with [one of the following:] gold, silver, copper, bronze, leather, exotic wood."

1.5.5.  **HAR.RA = ḫubullu? K. 4369: Babyloniaca 7 pl. III col. II.** Identified in *CAD* as Izi E series. **NB.**

8)  **[ME-x] qa-bu-ū**

   X=0 in *Proto-Aa MSL 14* p. 91 71:4.

9)  **[ME-x] ka-ra-bu**

   X=0 in *Proto-Ea MSL 2* p 129 iii 17.

10)  **[ME-x] sa-a-ru**

11)  **[ME-x] um-mu**

   X=0 in *MSL 13* p. 186 11.

12)  **[ME-x] pu-uḥ-rù**

13)  **[ME-x] pu-uz-rù**

14)  **[ME-x] at-mu-ū**

15)  **[ME-x] li-ša-nu**

The Sumerian portion of this column is broken away. The third column above lists occurrences of a similar **ME** equivalence attested in another lexical text.
1.5.6. **MSL 9**, p. 126. MAH 15850+ col. i VII.

49) [ME] \{lu-ú\}-tum paralysis
50) [d]u-ú-tum virility
51) [p]u-úḥ-rum assembly
52) [n]i-nu we
53) qá-bu-um to say

Compare also the ME series in **MSL 2**, p. 129 (above).

1.5.7. Sign list. **MSL 3** p. 146.

259) ú-ru [sign Labat # 38] a-lum
260) ú-ru [sign Labat # 43] a-bu-bu
261) e-rim [sign Labat # 49] i-şit-tu
262) še-ig [sign URUxTU] šá-gu-um-ma-tu
263) gu-ur [sign Labat # 46] ka-sa-mu
264) uk-kin [sign Labat # 40] pu-uḥ-rum
265) gi-īš-gal [sign Labat # 49x] man-za-zu
266) ši-ši-ig [sign Labat # 44] ša-ga-pu-rum


202) 1 du-ru KIB kib-bu BIT-tum
203) 1 da-ru KIB " UD-ri-ku
204) 1 pu-uḥ-rum KIB " pu-uḥ-rum assembly
205) 1 li-rū KIB " ga-mi-rum completeness?
206) (next sign in series).
1.5.9. Lexical fragment from Tell Billa. JCS 7 p. 135, #58.

3) pu-uḫ-ru UKKIN [...]  
4) ma-ak-ki-ru !  
5) šu-ru-ub-tu pu-uḫ-[ru]  
6) tāk-ši-rum -----------

puḫru is linked with "that which is brought in" (5) or "assemblage", in addition to the usual ukkin (3).

1.5.10. K 2054. CT 18 pl. 30, col. III.

9) DÙ.GÁ e-me-[du] to stand  
10) GÁ.GÁ pu-uḫ-[ru] assembly  
11) UL.ŠÁR.RA kiš-šā-[tu] totality  
12) BAR.GI.DI.LI ši-ú-[tu] (unknown) cf. AHw s.v. ši'ūtu p. 1107.

See parallel text AO 7092 in RA 16 (1919) p. 167 III 24;  
note that AO 7092 has a line that is not in K 2054:

52) ÉRIN.GAL pu-uḫ-[ru] large group

1.5.11. LTBA 2 1 VI.

34) [X].ŠUB.UD nar-ri-tū  
35) um-man-nu pu-ḫur UN-meš assembly of people  
36) ka-ra-šū uš-ma-nu camp  
37) sa-ma-šú sa-pa-nu (uncertain)  
38) ba-šu bal-ṭu alive, healthy
1.5.12. S.11 + S.980 King, *Seven Tablets of Creation II* pl. 53.

35) **DINGIR**  
   *i-lum*

36) **HUR**  
   *lib-bi*

37) **ŠÂ**  
   *lib-bi*

38) **ŠÂ**  
   *pu-uh-ru*

39) **IR**  
   *ka-mu-[u ?]*

1.5.13. *Izi C* series **di** = **di-e-nu. MAOG 13/2.** p. 34, col. IV.

15) **di.dingir.utu**  
   **di-en** *Šamaš*

16) **di.lugal**  
   ditto *šarri*

17) **di.(ma-ki-na)ukkina.na**  
   ditto *pu-uh-ri*

18) **di.pu-uh-ru**  
   ditto

19) **di.u.mu.zu**  
   ditto *al-la-at-te*  
   decision of the widow³¹


3) [1] **DAG**  
   *pa-at-t[u(?)]*  
   limit, boundary, area

4) [1] **DAG**  
   *pu-uh-ru[m]*

5) [1] **E[?]**  
   *e-ku*  

6) [1] **E[?]**  
   *bi-tum*

7) 1 **KISAL**  
   *k]i-sà-lu* 

1.5.15. *Silbenvokabular A* **BM 13902. AS 16, p. 22.**

29) [a]-ku  
   *wa-aš-bu*

30) [nigin]-a  
   *i-na  pu-uh-ri-šu-nu*

31) [a]-pap  
   *ra-bu-tum*

³¹ **CAD D** s.v. *dinu*, p. 150 reads line 19 as **di.nu.mu.zu**  
   = *al-ma-at-te.*
1.5.16. Lu = ša series. MSL 12, p. 96.

96) sukkal-gir₄-a  suk-kal ú-ba-ri
97) sukkal-lú-kaš₄-a  MIN la-si-mu
98) sukkal-di-k₃  MIN da-a-a-ni
99) sukkal-ukkin-a  suk-kal pu-uḫ-ri
100) sukkal-ensi₂  MIN iš-sak-ku
101) sukkal-é-bar  MIN ša-an-gi-e

....

116) gal-zu  mu-ʾ-i-ru
117) gal-zu-ukkin-na  rab pu-uḫ-ru
118) gi-til  ša-bi-tu

1.5.17. SIG. ALAN = Nabinītu, Tablet O.

291) [un]-{ke-em}ukkin  pu-uḫ-rum
292) [ki]-{sal}kisal  2
293) [x]-{x}³₂-ub  3
294) [pu]-uḫ-rum  4

Source: MSL 16 p. 295.

Footnote to this line comments: "small final vertical after break; perhaps [mu-r]u-ub." Based on this parallel, Dr. Sol Cohen suggests that the ME-X = puḫrum from Izi E 12 above might be reconstructed as ME-A. For the sense of ME-A meaning "all", note the Sumerian Flood Story (i) 41-43:

uruᵇ₁ me-a-bi hé-im-mi-in-du gissu-bi ni ga-ba-ab-dūḫ-bu
Let all their cities be built, I want their shade to be restful.

uru⁻me-a sig₃-bi ki-kū-ga hé-im-mi-in-šub
Let the bricks of all cities be laid on holy places,

ki⁻eš-me-a ki-kū-ga hé-im-mi-ni-ib-ri
Let all ... rest on holy places....

For further occurrences of ME-A = "all", see Civil's notes on these lines in Lambert, Atra-ASIS p. 168.
1.5.18. TCL 6 pl. 17. Commentary on the Enuma Anu Enlil astronomical series. On line 20, the word ILLATm (["group" or "troops") is set apart in the text, followed by pu-uh-ri.

1.5.19 ḪAR-ra = ḫubullu XXI, MSL 11 (Rome, 1974).

1) Nibru\textsuperscript{ki} = ni-ip-pu-ru
2) ċur-an-ki = MIN
3) ki-in-\textsuperscript{gi}ki = MIN
4) unū-X\textsuperscript{ki} = MIN
5) nam-bi-tar-ra\textsuperscript{ki} = MIN
6) dūr ge\textsuperscript{š}gešnimbar\textsuperscript{ki} = MIN
7) dūr ge\textsuperscript{š}l[a]m\textsuperscript{ki} = MIN
8) oru-te-nam\textsuperscript{ki} = MIN
9) oru od-ul-lī-\textsuperscript{a}ki = MIN
10) oru šen-šen-{na}\textsuperscript{ki} = MIN
11) oru-unug\textsuperscript{ki} = MIN
12) oru-sag\textsuperscript{ki} = MIN

Lieberman cites this text in connection with the city of Nippur, noting that line 5 may be translated as "Their/Its-Fate-Decided." He also suggests that the X in line 4 be read as ukkin, rendering this line as "(the) assembly's eating-place." Nippur: City of Decisions in Nippur at the Centennial, edited by Maria deJong Ellis (Philadelphia, 1992), p. 135-136.

1.6 Used as part of a title, with no direct relation on an actual assembly in the context. These are listed here
briefly for the sake of completeness but will not bear on any discussion.

1.6.1 High commissioner (gal-zu-unken-na).

1.6.1.1 šarrum-bāni to šû-Sîn 2, p. 229, l. 2, 25.
1.6.1.2 Ur-dun to Šulgi, p. 218, l. 8.
1.6.1.3 Arad-mu to Šulgi, p. 142, l. 6.
1.6.1.4 Šulgi to Arad-mu, p. 155, l. 18-21

These texts give one the best feel for the rank and power of the gal-zu-unken-na, at least when the powers of the position were abused. It appears to be a royally-appointed secular position.

Source: Michalowski, "Royal Correspondence of Ur," (thesis).

1.6.1.5 "Ration" list from Ekišnugal, which lists (at the top of the list) a gal-zu-ukkin-na.

Charpin notes its occurrence is extremely rare in documents of this type. [This may indicate that he was normally paid by other means].

Source: Le clergé d'Ur au siècle d'Hammurabi D. Charpin p. 235f.

1.6.1.6 Balbale to Ningizzida.

27: palīl gal-zu-unkina-na PA.PA-a ḫē-du,

A list of titles of the god.

Source: van Dijk, Sumerische Götterlieder Teil II p. 82.
1.6.2 ukkin-gal or gal-ukkin.

1.6.2.1 Nuška, acting as a courier, is termed an ukkingal.
Source: Sultantepe Tablets JNES 26 (1967) p. 204-5.

1.6.2.2 Text 15: 3 -- account for the delivery of an ox from the king to a gal-unken.

1.6.2.3 Text 49: left edge -- PA.URU unken-né. Tablet consists of a list of names. (PA.URU is "the overseer of the individuals listed in the text").
Source: Texts from Ur (Studia Pohl: Series Maior 13) Alberti & Pomponio.

1.6.2.4 Hymn to Enlil.

104) His great vizier, his chamberlain, Nusku,

\[\text{sukkul-maḥ-a-ni kingal ʻnusku}\]

105) The command, the word which he (Enlil) had placed in his heart,

106) He (Nusku) learned it from him, he consults with him,

Note: Perhaps parallelism of kingal with great vizier.

1.6.2.5 Sumerian Temple Hymns.

58: \[\text{ʻudug-é-kur-ra kin-gal-Nuska-ke,}\]

[Your prince, the prince, the counsellor of Enlil], worthy of the lofty shrine.
224) Your true vizier (is) the leader of heaven (kin-gal-an-na),

225) Your princess, the foremost among the gods,

Notes: In discussion, Sjöberg links gal.unken = kingal = rab puḥri, mu’erru (CAD s.v. mu’erru, notes: "gal.unken has nothing to do with an assembly").

Source: Sjöberg, TCS 3.
Chapter 3.
Puḫrum-relevant literature by genre:
Primary Akkadian textual sources.

2. Akkadian.

2.1 Myth and Epic.

2.1.1 Enuma Elish.
Tablet I: (line numbers and transliteration follow the Lambert and Parker cuneiform text edition, translation closely follows Heidel).

55) mim-mu-u iq-pu-du pu-uḫ-ru-uš-[šun]
   Whatever they planned in their [Apsu and Mummu’s] assembly

56) a-na ilâni bu-uk-ri-šu-nu uš-tan-nu-ni
   was communicated to the gods, their first-born.

Here the private consulting of Apsu with Mummu is termed an "assembly." Being only two people, this borders on a prepositional usage (i.e., "together").

131) [na]-šu-ū tam-ḥa-ri na-zar-bu-bu lab-bu
   They prepared for the fight, fuming (and) raging;

132) ukkin-na šit-ku-nu-ma i-ban-nu-ú šu-la-a-ti
   They held a meeting and planned a conflict.

.....

148) ú-ša-aš-qa “Kin-gu ina bi-ri-šu-nu ša-a-šu uš-rab-[bi-iš]
   She exalted Kingu; in their midst she made him great.
149) a-li-kut maḫ-ri pa-an um-ma-ni mu-ʾir-ru-tu pu-ḫu-[ru]..

To march at the head of the army, to direct the
forces,
150) na-še-e kakki ti-š-iš-bu-tu te-bu-u a-na-an-ta
To raise the weapons for the engagement, to launch the
attack,
151) šu-ut tam-ḫa-ru ra-ab šik-ka-tu-tu
The high command of the battle
152) ip-giḏ-ma qa-tuš-šu ú-še-ši-ba-aš-šu ina kar-ri
She intrusted to his hand. She sat him in the
assembly, (saying:)
153) a-di ta-a-ka ina UNKEN ilāni u-šar-bi-ka
"I have uttered your spell; in the assembly of the gods
I have magnified you."

Note: "Making someone great" (Š of rabûm) is done in the
assembly, in their midst.

On lines 101f see also: Jensen, ZA 36, p. 77f. Lewy, OrNS
239; 38, p. 120.

Tablet II:
The report of Ea to Anšar about what Tiʾamat is planning,
highly repetitious of Tablet I:
12) pu-ḫu-ru šit-ku-na-at-ma ag-giš la-ab-bu (cf. III 16)
She held a meeting and raged furiously ...
18) ukkin-na šit-ku-nu-ma i-ban-nu-ú šu-la-a-tum

(cls. III 22)

They held a meeting and planned the conflict ... The scene in I 152ff is repeated in II 33-39, III 37-43, and III 95-101).

Marduk speaking to his father (Anšar), in response to being asked to battle Ti’amat:

123) šum-ma-ma ana-ku mu-tir gi-mil-li-ku-ma

"If I am indeed to be your avenger,

124) a-kam-me ti-amat-ma ú-bal-laṭ-ka-a-šu-un

To vanquish Ti’amat and to keep you alive,

125) šuk-na-ma pu-uḫ- rá šu-te-ra i-ba-a ši-m-ti

Convene the assembly, announce again my fate.

126) ina Ub-šu-ukkīn-na-ki mit-ḫa-riš ḫa-diš tiš-ba-ma

In Ubšu-ukkinnaku seat yourselves together gladfully.

127) ip-šu pi-ya ki-ma ka-tu-nu-mu ši-ma-ta lu-ši-im

May I through the utterance of my mouth determine the destinies, instead of you.

128) la ut-tak- kar mim-mu-u a-ban-nu-u a-na-ku

Whatever I create shall remain unaltered,

129) āy i-tür āy i-in-nin-na- a se-kar šap-ti-ya

The command of my lips shall not return (void), it shall not be changed."

Note that the divine assembly is seated in the Ubšu-ukkina for the purpose of determining fates. In response to Marduk’s request, Anšar sends Kaka his Vizier to "Cause the
gods my fathers to be brought before me. / Let them bring
all the gods to me! / Let them converse (and) sit down to a
banquet. / Let them eat bread (and) prepare wine." (Tablet
III 6-9).

Tablet III:
The gods convene an assembly in response to Anšar's request:
129) ik-ša-šu-nim-ma il-lak-[ku-ni]
They gathered together and departed,
130) ilâni rabûti ka-li-šu-nu mu-šim-mu [šimâti]
All the great gods who determine the destines.
131) i-ru-bu-ma mut-ti-iš An-šar im-lu-u [ḥi-du-ta]
They entered into the presence of Anšar and were filled
with joy,
132) in-niš-qu aḫu-u a-ḫi ina puḫri [in-nin-du]
They kissed one another and joined in assembly.
133) li-ša-nu iš-ku-nu ina ki-ri-e-ti [uš-bu]
They conversed (and) [sat down] to a banquet.
134) aš-na-an i-ku-lu ip-ti-qu ku-r[u-un-nu]
They ate bread (and) prepared wine.

Significance: Key passage describing the gathering of the
assembly and the assembly banquet.

Tablet IV:
The assembly confers kingship (cf. IV 28) upon Marduk:
1) id-du-šum-ma pa-rak ru-bu-ú-ti
They erected for him a lordly adytum (parakku)¹,

2) ma-ḥa-ri-iš ab-bé-e-šu a-na ma-li-ku-ti ir-me
And he took his place before his fathers to (receive)
sovereignty.

3) at-ta-ma kab-ta-ta i-na ilī rabûti
"You are (the most) important among the great gods;

4) ši-mat-ka la ša-na-an sè-qar-ka ʿA-nu-um
Your destiny is unequaled, your command is (like) Anu.

5) ʿAMAR.UD kab-ta-ta i-na ilī rabûti
Marduk, you are (the most) important among the great
gods,

6) ši-mat-ka la ša-na-an sè-qar-ka ʿA-nu-um
Your destiny is unequaled, your command is (like) Anu.

7) iš-tu u₂-mi-im-ma la in-nin-na-a qí-bit-ka
From this day onward your command shall not be changed.

8) šu-uš-qu-ú ū šu-uš-pu-lu ši-i lu-ú šu-ka
To exalt and to abase -- this shall be your power!

9) lu-ú ki-na-at ši-it pi-i-ka la sa-ra-ar zi-kar-ka
Dependable shall be the utterance of your mouth, your
command shall not prove vain.

¹ Jin Sup Kim, in his Ph.D. thesis BARAG in Sumerian Literature: A Study of Historical Semantics with Emphasis on its Referent and Cultural Function (Annenberg Research Institute, 1991), argues that parakku is better translated as adytum (from the Greek, meaning "not to be entered"), i.e., the innermost room of a temple or shrine. Previous work has usually rendered parakku as a "dais," or "smaller structures upon which a throne could be placed to lift the seat of the king (or deity) above the level of its surroundings." (CAD D p. 166).
10) ma-am-ma-an i-na ilī i-tuk-ka la it-ti-iq
None among the gods shall infringe upon your prerogative."

....

14) ni-id-din-ka šar-ru-tum kiš-šat kal gim-ri-e-ti
"To you we have given kingship over the totality of the whole universe,

15) ti-šam-ma i-na pu-ḫur lu-ū ša-ga-ta a-mat-ka
So that when you sit in the assembly, your word shall be exalted."

Significance: Sitting (in a specific place, the parakku, as all the rest are seated) in the assembly marks a position of power in the meeting.

Note that the gods are clearly placing Marduk in a permanent kingship role over them: The text reads like a coronation ceremony! As his word is supreme, this divine assembly can no longer be (and perhaps never was) democratic in nature in the sense that the wishes of the majority will always be heeded.

Tablet V: From Landsberger and Kinnier-Wilson, *JNES* 20, p. 154ff; see also *ANET*, p.502 Supplement by A.K. Grayson.

85) [pa]h-ru-ma ʾigigi ka-li-šu-nu uš-kin-nu-uš
Assembled were the Igigi, they prostrated before him altogether,
86) ([a]-nun-na-ki ma-la ba-šu-u ú-na-áš-šá-qu
GIR².MEŠ-šú
The Anunnaki, as many as there were, kissed his feet;
87) (x x x )-{ma} pu-ḫur-šu-nu la-ba-niš ap-pi
[They came] in their entirety to pay him reverence, and
88) [maḫ-ri-š]u i-zi-zu ik-nu-šu an-na-ma LUGAL
Stood [before hi]m, did obeisance, (saying): He is
King!

..... Ea and Damkina speak to the Igigi:
111) šá-nu-u iz-zak-ru-ma iq-bu-u pu-ḫur-šu-un
They .... spoke, said all together:
112) 'lugal-{dim}-me-er-an-ki-a zik-ra-šu šu-a-šú ti-ik-la-šú
"Lugaldimmerankia shall be his name, trust only him!"

..... Marduk describing Babylon for the gods:
125) e-nu-ma ul-tu ZU.AB-i tel-la-a ana pu-[uḫ]-rum
"When you come up from the Apsu for assembly,
126) áš-ru-uš-šu lu-u nu-bat-ta-ku-un ana maḫar pu-ḫur-
ku-un
You will spend the night therein. It is there to
receive all of you.²

² According to Landsberger and Wilson JNES 20 p. 178 n. 28, "This phrase cannot mean 'before your assembly' ....
since not only is ana maḫar used regularly of place, not of
time, but also such a meaning would require puḫrikun to be
grammatically correct. The alternative is to read, not ana
maḫar, but ana maḫar (infinitive construct), taking puḫurkun
as its direct object. To common examples of puḫru in the
sense of 'totality,' 'all' (cf. V, 87 and 121) may be added
I, 153 where ina pu-ḫur ili is 'amongst all the gods' rather
than 'in the Assembly of the gods.'" [I do not agree with
the analysis of I 153, as puḫur is there used in a clear
127) e-nu-ma ul-tu šá-ma-mi tur-r[a-da ana pu-u]ḫ-r[ī]
When you descend from heaven for assembly,
128) āš-[r[u-uš-šu] lu-u nu-ba-ta-ku-un ana ma-ḫar pu-ḫur-
ku-un
You will spend the night therein. It is there to
receive all of you.

Significance: Praise in the assembly; kissing of feet.
Overnight accommodations were provided for long-distance
travellers to an assembly.

Tablet VI: (following ANET p. 68-9)
18) ʻAMAR.UD u-paḫ-ḫir-ma ilū rabūti
Marduk summoned the great gods to Assembly,
19) taş-bi-iš u-ma’-ru i-nam-din te-er-ti
Ordering graciously, he issues instructions.

......
67) ul-lu e-sag-ila i-na-at-ḫa-šu gur-na-a šu
After they had achieved the building of Esagila,
68) a-nun-na-ki šu-nu pa-rak-ki-šu-nu ib-taš-mu
All the Anunnaki erected their adytums.
69) {5 UŠ ʻī-gi-gi šá šá-ma-[m]i u DIŠ+U šá ZU.AB
kali-šu-nu paḫ-ru}
The 300 Igigi from heaven and the Anunnaki from the
apsû, all of them gathered,

assembly context].
70) be-lam ina paramahhi šá ib-nu-u šu-bat-su
   The lord being on the lofty adytum which they had
   built as his abode,

71) ilu abé-šu qi-ri-ta-šu uš-te-šib
   The gods, his fathers, at his banquet he seated:

72) an-nam ba-ab-i-li šu-bat na-ar-me-ku-un
   "This is Babylon, the place that is your home!

73) nu-ga-a aš-ru-uš-šu ḫi-du-ta-šu taš-ba-a-ma
   Sing joyously in it, be sated with its pleasure."

74) ú-ši-bu-ma ilu rabūti
   The great gods took their seats,

75) zar-ba-bu iš-ku-nu ina qé-re-e-ti uš-bu
   They set up festive drink, sat down to a banquet.

76) ul-lu ni-gu-tam iš-ku-nu qé-reb-šu
   After they had made merry within it, ....

.....

80) ilu rabūti ha-am-šat-su-nu u-ši-bu-ma
   The fifty great gods took their seats.

81) ilu šimāti sibitti-šu-nu a-na 30.BAR uk-tin-nu
   The seven gods of destiny set up the 300 ....

.....

86) iš-ši-ma ʿa-num ina puḥur ilu i-qab-bi
   Raising [the bow], Anu spoke up in the assembly of the
   gods ....

---

3 Note that all the gods have their own adytums, but
Marduk being the "most high god" has a BARAG.MAḪ = an
elevated adytum.
Significance: The hierarchy of the assembly given here:
300 Igigi, 50 great gods, 7 gods of destiny, with Marduk at the top.

139) “LUGAL.DIM.ME.ER.AN.KI.A šum-šu ša nim-bu-u pu-ḫur-ni
Lugaldimmerankia is his name which we proclaimed in the assembly.

162) iḫ-du-ma ilū iš-mu-ū zi-kir-šu-un
Joyfully the gods did heed their command,

163) ina ub-šu-ukkin-na ki uš-ta-di-nu-šu-nu iš-qat-su-un
As in Ubšu-ukkin-na they exchanged counsels;

164) ša ma-ru qar-ra-du mu-tir gi-mi-li-ni
"Of the heroic son, our avenger,

165) ni-i-nu ša za-ni-ni i nu-ul-li šum-šu
Of our supporter we will exalt the name!"

166) ū-ši-bu-ma ina puḫri-šu-nu i-nam-bu-u ši-ma-a-te
They sat down in their assembly to fashion destinies,

167) ina mé-e-si nag-ba-šu-nu ū-zak-ki-ru-ni šum-šu
All of them uttering his name in the sanctuary.

Note that this ubšu-ukkin-na is in Babylon.

Tablet VII:

13) lu-ū šu-uš-qu-ū-ma ina unkin ilānī [AD.AD]-šu
Indeed he is supreme in the assembly of the gods his fathers;
14) ma-am-man ina ilâni šu-a-šu la um-[daš-šal-šu]
   No one among the gods is his eq[ual].

37) mu-kin unkin ša ilâni mu-ṭib lib-bi-šu-un
    [Marduk] The establisher of the assembly of the gods;
    (who) gladdens their hearts,

38) mu-kan-niš la ma-gi-ri n[in-lu-u]l-šu-un ra-ap-šu
    The subduer of the rebel; their wide-spread
    [pro]tection,

39) mu-še-šir kit-ti na-si-[iḥ] it-gu-ru da-ba-ba
    The administrator of justice, who roots [out] crooked
    speech,

Sources: W. G. Lambert, Enuma eliš: The Babylonian Epic of
Creation. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1966) [Cuneiform
text]; Stephen Langdon, The Epic of Creation (Oxford,
1923); E. A. Speiser in ANET. (lines above follow Lambert
unless noted). R. Labat, Le poème babylonien de la creation
156f. Schott, OLZ 45, p. 165f. DT 41, which refers to the
gods in their assembly creating the world, may be a fragment
from Enuma Eliš (see P. Jensen, Keilinschriftliche
Bibliothek 6/1 (1970 reprint) Assyrisch-Babylonische Mythen
und Epen). Alexander Heidel, The Gilgamesh Epic and Old

General articles: Jacobsen, JAOS 88, p. 104ff. Oppenheim,

2.1.2 Gilgamesh.

Date: 750 B.C. (Ashurbanipal, Nineveh), but goes back to OB
and Sumerian source material.

Locus: Mesopotamian, story set in Uruk.
2.1.2.1 Assembly of the gods. Tablet XI:

118) ūmu(mu) ul-lu-u a-na tì-i-tì ti lu-u i-tur-ma
The olden days are alas turned to clay,

119) aš-šu a-na-ku ina pu-ḫur ilâni aqbu-u ʾlimutti
Because I spoke evil in the assembly of the gods.

120) ki-i aq-bi ina pu-ḫur ilâni limutti
How could I speak evil in the assembly of the gods,

121) ana ḫul-lu-uq nišēmaš-ya qab-la aq-bi-ma
Ordering battle for the destruction of my people,

122) a-na-ku-um-ma ul-la-da ni-šu-u-a-a-ma
When it is I myself who give birth to my people?

Textual variants have ma-ḥar for pu-ḫur in lines 119-120. However, we know from Atra-Hasis that a divine assembly was involved in bringing the flood, although it is not mentioned in the Gilgamesh Epic itself. Since the textual tradition behind this story originally viewed puḫur as a divine assembly, this is the better translation. As Gilgamesh developed independently of the fuller story, the assembly alluded to here became confused with the prepositional use of puḫru.

XI 161-198 contains some indirect references to the gods "assembling" around Utnapištu's sacrifice after the flood and to their "taking counsel" to decide what to do with him.

161) ilâni ki-ma zu-um-bi-e eli bēl niqē ip-taḥ-ru
The gods gathered like flies around the sacrificer [Utnapištu]....
197) e-nin-na-ma ana ka-a-ša man-nu ilāni u-paḫ-ḫa-rak-kum-ma
But now, who will for your sake call the gods to assembly
198) ba-la-ṭa ša tu-ba'-u tu-ut-ta-a at-ta
That the (eternal) life which you seek you may find?

Conclusion: It would require divine action for Gilgamesh to become immortal.


2.1.2.2 Civil assembly.
Tablet III (Gilgamesh and Huwawa). Yale Tablet Column IV:

36) [d]GIŠ u ʿEN.KI.DU 10 biltuṭa-ša-an ša-ak-nu
Gilgamesh and Enkidu were each laden with ten talents.
37) [ina a-bu-ul-la š[a Ur]ukšt 7 i-di-il-šu
 [In the] gate of Uruk, whose bolts are seven,
38) [ ]-ma um-ma-nu ip-ḫu-ra
 [ ] the populace gathered.
39) [ ]-a i-na süqi ša Urukšt ri-bi-tim
 [ ] in the street of broad-marted Uruk.
40) [ ]-šu ʿGIS
 [ ] Gilgamesh.
[si-bu-tum ša Urukₚ] ri-bi-tim
[the elders] of board-marted [Uruk].

[ūš]-ša-ab i-na maẖ-ri-šu
[sat down before him.

i-g]a-ab-bi
[Speaking [....]

"[....] of board-marted [Uruk]."

..... [Gilgamesh proposes to go and conquer Huwawa.]

7) [si-bu-tum ša Urukₚ] ri-bi-tim
The elders of board-marted Uruk

8) zi-ik-ra u-ti-ir-ru a-na "GIŠ
Said to Gilgamesh in reply:

9) [ši-iḥ-ri-ti-ma "GIŠ libbi-ka na-ši-ka
"You are yet young, Gilgamesh, your heart has carried
you away."

..... [The elders try to discourage him from going....]

20) iš-me-e-ma "GIŠ zì-ki-ir ma-li-[ki]-šu
When Gilgamesh heard this speech of his counsellors,

21) ip-pa-al-za-am ma i-ši-iḥ a-na ib-[ri-šu]
He looked around, smiling, towards [his] friend:

22) i-na-an-na ib-[ri] ki-a-am [ ]
"Now, my friend, thus [...] (rest of speech
destroyed).

Column I of a fragment of the Assyrian version (which
parallels the Babylonian version above starting at VI 19)
further mentions the elders:
1) [ši-bu-tum pā-šu-nu epušu-ma izakkaru(ru) iqabbū ana "Gilgameš]

[The elders opened their mouths, saying to Gilgamesh]:

2) [l]a ta-tak-kil "Gilgameš a-na gi-mir e-mu-q[i-ka]

"Trust not, Gilgamesh, in all your own strength.

..... Further cautions....

9) "EN.KI.DU ib-ri li-is-ṣur tap-pa-a li-šal-lim

Enkidu will protect the friend, safeguard the companion.

10) a-na šeri ḫi-ra-a-ti pa-gar-šu lib-la

Over the pitfalls he shall carry his body!

11) i-na pu-uh-ri-ni-ma ni-ip-qi-dak-ka šarru

We, the assembly, entrust the King to you.

12) tu-tar-ram-ma ta-paq-qi-dan-na-ši šarru

Deliver the King back to us!"

Note that the elders refer to themselves as an assembly who gives advice to Gilgamesh. This feature is absent in the Sumerian version.

2.1.2.3 Non-technical use.

Gilgamesh meets Utnapištu, and asks him:

XI 7) [qi-ban-ni] ki-i ta-az-ziz-ma ina puḥur ilāni

ba-la-ṭa taš-u

"[Tell me], how did you join the assembly of the gods, in your quest for life?"

Notes: Join is Speiser's translation of izuzzu, more literally "to stand," "stay," "remain." (ANET p. 93).
Assembly is used here as a class-noun, and does not refer to a technical gathering. The question here is how Utnapištu obtained god status (i.e., immortality), not membership in a governing body.

Tigay, p.133, 294n, notes variants where maḫar replaces puḫur in a prepositional use. In such cases "in the assembly of" means merely "in the presence of." Also, von Soden notes a situation in an apparent fragment from Gilgameš Tablet X col. IV l. 4, where puḫrum used in sense of "together, jointly." (ZA 58 (1967), p. 188ff).

Sources: The citations and translations above follow Speiser in ANET, the transcriptions follow Thompson. Tigay, Evolution of the Gilgamesh Epic, gives a full listing of the major texts on pp. 304-306. Of the many articles in his bibliography none appear to cover the civil assembly of tablet 3 while the flood assemblies are covered under Atra-hasis. Borger, HKL also lists no references to tablet 3.

2.1.3 Atra-Hasis.
Date: MB (1200-750 BC) with Sumerian background.

The first section is probably the largest single ancient passage which shows two assemblies at work. In Tablet I, we find the Igigi gods (who are called "the sons of Enlil" in several places) in service to the 7 great Anunnaki gods. The Igigi become fed up with the working conditions and surround Enlil's residence at night to protest their plight. Enlil calls a meeting with Anu and
Enki:

103) ra-bu-tum 'a-nun-[na(-ku) w]a-aš-bu
With the great Anunnaki present

104) 'en-lîl it-bi-ma ša [. . .]'-di/ki-nu
Enlil arose and ....

105) 'en-lîl pî-a-šu i-[pu-ša-a]m-ma
Enlil opened his mouth

106) is-sà-qar a-n[a i-li ra-b]u-tim
And addressed the great [gods].

They decide to send out the vizier Nusku to inquire of the Igigi what the problem is. They instruct him as follows:

122) i-na pu-úḫ-ri [ka-la i-li-ma]
In the assembly of [all the gods]

123) ki-mî-is i-zi-[i[z . . . . . ]]-ni
Bow down, stand up, [and repeat to them] our [words]:

124) iš-pu-ra-an-ni [a-bu-ku-nu] a-nu
"Anu, [your father], ....

Note that the "assembly of the Igigi" is the mob gathered around the temple of Enlil. Nusku takes his weapons!

In response to the complaints of the Igigi, the Anunnaki gods decide to create man in order to do the tasks the Igigi had been doing.

---

'Lambert and Millard conjecture that this line can be reconstructed as ša-[šum uš]-ki-nu, "they bowed down to him" (p. 151). Von Soden (OrNS 38 [1969], p. 423) suggests restoring ša-[ki-in] di-nu, "the (law-)court was convened."
They summoned and asked the goddess, 

The midwife of the gods, wise Mami, 

"You are the birth-goddess, creatress of mankind, 

Create Lullû [mankind] that he may bear the yoke, ...."

Mami asks for help from Enki, who proposes how man should be made. After he explains his method,

In the assembly (they) answered "Yes"

The great Anunnaki, / who administer destinies.

On the first, seventh, and fifteenth day of the month

He made a purifying bath.

Wê-ila, who had personality,

they slaughtered in their assembly.

Mami mixes the slaughtered god’s blood with clay to make the hybrid starting material for man:

After she had mixed that clay
She summoned the Anunnaki, the great gods.

The Igigi, the great gods,

Spat upon the clay.

Mami opened her mouth

And addressed the great gods,

Mami explains that she has made man to "establish freedom" from work for the gods.

They heard this speech of hers,

They ran together and kissed her feet, (saying,)

"Formerly we used to call you Mami,

Now let your name be Mistress-of-All-the-Gods."

Significance: Voting (218) [cf. x rev. ii 45 below] and probable judgment/killing (224) in the assembly (The reason why Wē-ila is singled out to be killed is not given).

After "1200 years" (S iv 1) mankind has multiplied to the point where they begin to annoy Enlil (following the Assyrian recension S iv):
4) ["e]n-lil il-ta-kan pu-ḫur-š[u]
Enlil convened his assembly,

5) [i]z-za-ra a-na ilānī mārē-šu
He spoke to the gods his sons,

6) [i]k-ta-m[a r]i-gi-im a-me-lu-te
"The noise of mankind has become too intense for me...."

Compare also line 37. The gods decide to send a plague on mankind to "diminish their noise." Atra-hasis inquires of Enki and is told how to avert the plague.

385) 'a-ta-am-ḥa-si-is il-{qi-a} te-er-tam
Atra-hasis received the command

386) śi-bu-ti ú-pa-ah-ši-ir a-{na} ba-bi-šu
And gathered the elders to his gate.

Atra-hasis tells them how to avert the plague. They then inform the people via heralds to carry out the required action (sacrificing to the specific god who is troubling them).

Significance: Although this is never explicitly called an assembly, the verbal form is used. Note that the elders meet at the gate to Atra-hasis' house.⁵ Cf. Moran, Biblica

⁵ That "gate" here refers to that of a house, not of a city, compare The Sultantepe Tablets. V. The Poor Man of Nippur, O. R. Gurney, AS 6 p. 145-62, line 6: "The friends at my gate will hear of it and will be angry." After Gimil-Ninurta says that he will go "to the house of the Mayor" (line 21), the narrator says that he "proceeded to the gate of the Mayor of Nippur" (line 24). The Mayor has a gate-keeper ("āṭu") to whom Gimil-Ninurta speaks, and who tells the Mayor that someone is "waiting at your gate" (line 28). Frequent references to the gate of the Mayor’s house
Tablet II.
ii 14’ Fragmentary, but it appears that the gods next send draught upon mankind, and Atra-hasis learns from Enki how to avert it and tells the elders.

Following a large break, the text resumes:
v 14) ra-bu-tum-mi ʻa-n[un-na ka-lu-ni]

[All we] great Anunnaki

v 15) ub-la pi-i-ni iš-ti-[ni-iš ur-tam]

Decided together [on a rule].

Apparently the gods are upset that Enki keeps telling Atra-hasis (and through him the rest of mankind) how to avert the plagues that the gods were putting on them.

The next scheme to kill off mankind is being planned (cutting off grain), when Enki gets disruptive:
vi 15) [i-lu]-ma i-ta-šu-uš a-ša-ba-am

[The god] got fed up with sitting,

vi 16) [i-n]a pu-úh-ri ša i-li ši-ih-tum i-ku-ul-šu

in the assembly of the gods laughter overcame him.

vi 17-18) repeats lines 15-16, and unfortunately the next lines are fragmentary. After a long break, we resume in the next column (vii):

continue throughout the narrative.

Draffkorn here sees Enki becoming increasingly alienated from the destructive intent of rest of the assembly.
38-39) in[u-t]a-am-MU-NI (sic) ma-āš-š / 'en-ki ni-iš-š[i-ka]  
Let us bind prince Enki .. [...] by an oath."
40) 'en-ki pí-a-šu i-pu-[ša-am-ma]  
Enki opened his mouth  
41) is-sā-qar a-na i-[li aḫ-ḫi-šu]  
And addressed the gods [his brothers],  
42) a-na mi-nim tu-ta-am-ma-n[i ...]  
"Why will you bind me with an oath [...]?  
43) ú-ub-ba-al qá-ti a-na n[i-ši-ya-ma]  
Am I to lay hands on [my own peoples]?

Enki asks that the gods wanting to bring the flood do so themselves, rather than have him do it. Turning to the Babylon fragment 1804, BE 39099 (x) rev. ii to fill in the story line:
44) [‘en]-lil pa-a-šú i-pu-uš-ma i-qab-bi  
Enlil opened his mouth to speak  
45) [a]-na pu-ḥur ka-la ili[i] iz-za-kár  
And addressed the assembly of all the gods,  
46) [a]l-ka-ni ka-la-ni a-na ma-mi-tú a-bu-bi  
"Come, all of us, and take an oath to bring a flood."
47) ‘a-nam i-na pa-ni {ta}-mu-ni  
Anu swore first;  
48) ‘en-lil it-ta-mi mārešš-šú it-ti-šú ta-mu-ni  
Enlil swore, his sons swore with him. [tablet ends]
Note parallel here: "Assembly" parallels "the gods his sons." Oath/voting done in rank order.

Following the flood, the gods regret their action. Mami, the female god who assisted Enki in creating mankind, laments in III iii:

36) a-na-ku i-na pu-ūḫ-ri ša {i}-[li]
   In the assembly of the gods

37) ki-i aq-[bi] (38)/ it-ti-šu-nu ga-me-er-ta-a[m]
   How did I, with them, command total destruction?

39) ˝en-lîl id-pî-ra ū-ša-aq-bi bi-i-[ša]
   Enlil has had enough of bringing about an evil command,

40) ki-ma ti-ru-ru šu-a-t[i] (41)/ ū-ša-as-ḥi bi-i-š[a]
   like that Tiruru, he uttered abominable evil.

42) a-na ra-ma-ni-ya û pa-ag-ri-[y][a]
   As a result of my own choice

43) i-na še-ri-yā-ma ri-gi-im-ši-na eš-me
   And to my own hurt I have listened to their noise.

44) e-le-nu-ya ki-ma zu-ub-bi (45)/ i-wu-ū li-il-li-du
   My offspring -- cut off from me -- have become like flies!

In III vi lines 7ff, Enki admits to having broken the oath made in the assembly of the Anunnaki by directing Atra-hasis to escape the flood. After a fragmentary section,

41) [˝en-lîl p]i-a-šu i-pu-ša-am-ma
   Enlil opened his mouth
42) [is-sà]-qar a-na "en-ki ni-iš-ši-ki
And addressed Enki the prince,

43) [ga-na sa-a]s-sú-ra "nin-tu ši-si-ma
"[Come], summon Nintu, the birth-goddess,

44) [at-t]a ū ši-i mi-it-li-ka i-na pu-uḫ-ri
[You] and she, confer in the assembly ...."

Enki and Nintu then figure out several means to reduce the
live birth rate so that the human population will not be so
overwhelming in the future.


Reviews: Aro, ZA 61, p. 174f. Hruška, BiOr 27, p. 27f.
Matouš, ArOr 38, p. 74f. Moran, Biblica 52, p. 51f.
Pettinato, OrAnt 9, p. 75f. Renger, JNES 32, p. 342f.

Significant articles on the text: Draffkorn-Kilmer, OrNS
40, p. 97f; 41, pp. 160-77. Lambert, OrNS 38, pp. 533-538
and 40, pp. 95-98. Matouš, ArOr 35, pp. 1-16 and 37, pp. 1-
165-200; Menschenbild, p. 101ff. Schrader, KAT3, p. 497
Anm. 3. Siegelova, ArOr 38, pp. 135-139 (Hittite fragment).
Von Soden, CRRA 17, pp. 142-146 and OrNS 38, pp. 415-432,

2.2 Wisdom Literature.

2.2.1 The Tamarisk and the Palm.

In the introduction to the dispute, the following background
is told:

3) puhra iš-ku-nu ilâni[m] mâtâte[m] ʼa-nu ʻenlil(BE) ʻé-a
The gods of the lands, Anu, Enlil, and Ea, convened an
assembly.
4) "e[n-lí]l u i-li id-da-al-gú
Enlil and the gods took counsel,

5) ina be-er-šu-nu a-ši-be "šá-maš
In their midst Šamaš was seated,

6) KIMIN i-it-ti-là-at iláni₁₄ rabítu us-{ba}-at
In their midst was seated the great lady of the gods.

7) ina pâna₂⁶ šar-ru-tu ina mâtáti₃₅ ul ba-ši
Formerly kingship did not exist in the lands,

8) u be-lu-tu a-na iláni₃₅ šar-ka-at
And the rule was given to the gods.

9) giš.X.meš šarru(man) iláni₃₅ ra-mu-ni-šu

10) sa-lam sag.meš iq-bu-ni-šu
Lambert labels lines 9-10 as "untranslatable."

11) šarru(man) ina ēkalli₁¹-šu
The king in his palace

12) e-za qa-ap "šîšimmari₃₆"
Planted the Palm ....

Significance: the leaders (male/female) of the assembly are seated in the midst (ina be-er-šu-nu) of the other members. This reference to the divine assembly is not present in earlier versions.

2.2.2 Advice to a Prince.

23) sippar\textsuperscript{ki} nippuru\textsuperscript{ki} u bābilu(din.tir.ki)
   
   mitḫāriš(ur.bi.ta) ušatbi(zi!-bi)
   
   If he mobilized the whole of Sippar, Nippur, and Babylon,

24) šābī(érin.meš) šu-nu-ti tup-ši-ik-ka e-me-da-am
   
   and imposed forced labor on the people,

25) il-ki ši-si-it \textsuperscript{16}na-gi-ri e-li-šú-nu ú-kan-nu
   
   exacting from them corvée at the herald’s proclamation,

26) 'marduk apkal ili\textsuperscript{māš} rubū muš-ta-lum
   
   Marduk, the sage of the gods, the prince, the counselor,

27) māt-su a-na \textsuperscript{14}nakri-šú ú-sah-ḥar-ma
   
   will turn his land over to his enemy,

28) ummāni(érin-ni) mātī-šu tup-ši-ik-ka a-na \textsuperscript{14}nakri-šú i-za-bil
   
   so that the troops of his land will do forced labor for his enemy,

29) šābī(érin.meš) šu-nu-ti 'a-num 'en-līl u 'ē-a ili
   
   (dingir.dingir) rabūti(gal.gal)
   
   for Anu, Enlil, and Ea, the great gods,

30) a-ši-bi šamē u erṣeti ina pu-ḥa-ri-šú-nu šu-ba-ra-
   
   šú-nu ú-kin-nu
   
   who dwell in heaven and earth, in their assembly
   
   affirmed the freedom of those people from such obligations.
Since the divine assembly has affirmed the freedom of Sippar, etc. from forced labor, the king cannot violate this without fear of sanction.


2.2.3 Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi.

80) su-qa a-ba-‘a-ma tur-ru-ša ū-ba(!)-na-a-ti
   If I walk the street, fingers are pointed at me.

81) er-ru-ub ĕkal-liš i-ša-pu-ra i-na-a-ti
   If I enter the palace, eyes blink.

82) āli-i, ki-i a-a-bi ni-kil-man-ni
   My city frowns on me as an enemy;

83) tu-šá-ma nak-ra-ti na-an-du-ur-tú ma-a-ti
   Indeed my land is savage and hostile.

84) a-na a-ḫi-i a-ḫi i-tu-ra
   My friend has become a foe,

85) a-na lem-ni u gal-le-e i-tu-ra ib-ri
   My companion has become a wretch and a devil.

86) na-al-bu-bu tap-pe-e ū-nam-gar-an-ni
   In his savagery my comrade denounces me,

87) ki-na-a-ti qaq-dā-a ū-mar-ras-s[u] zī′kakkī ʾmī
   Constantly my associates furbish their weapons.

88) ru-ū′-a ṭa-a-bi ū-kar-r[i]? na-piš-ti
   My intimate friend has brought my life into danger;
80

89) šu-pîš ina (puḫri i)-ru-ra-ni ar-di
   My slave has publicly cursed me in the assembly.

90) bi-ti mu/ik x x an um-ma-ni ța-pil-ťi iq-bi
   My house ..., the mob has defamed me.

91) i-mu-ra-ni-ma m[u-d]u-u šá-ḫa-ti i-mid
   When my acquaintance sees me, he passes by on the other side.

Source: BWL p. 34 (Cassite). ANET p. 596f has additional material and emends BWL's reading of line 80.

2.2.4 Counsels of Wisdom.

31) ina pu-ḫiri e ta-‘-ir ū-uzu-uzu-za
   Do not frequent an assembly,

32) a-šar šal-tim-ma e tu-ut-tag-ge-eš
   Do not loiter where there is a dispute,

33) ina šal-tim-ma i-ra-Ẹš-šu-ka šim-ta
   For in the dispute they will have you as a testifier,

34) ū at-ta a-na ši-bu-ti-šú-nu taš-šak-kin-ma
   Then you will be made their witness

35) a-na la di-ni-ka ub-ba-lu-ka a-na kun-ni
   And they will bring you to a lawsuit not your own to affirm.

36) ina pa-an šal-tim-ma pu-țur e tak-pu-ud
   When confronted with a dispute, go your away; pay no attention to it.

37) lu-ú šal-ta-ka-ma na-pi-ib-ta bul-li
   Should it be a dispute of your own, extinguish the flame!
38) ṣal-tu-um-ma ṣu-ut-ta-tum še-ṭi-tum
Disputes are a covered pit,

A strong wall that scares away its foes.

A warning not to loiter around an assembly or to get involved in disputes. While most take this as referring to a civil or judicial assembly (Lambert translates puḥru here as "law court"), the author feels that it applies to avoiding joining the spontaneous throng of on-lookers that gathers around any heated public quarrel (see discussion).


2.2.5 Series of the Fox.

6) {e}-te-rīš ka la [a] ki mu maš re e ti ki-ma zi-
   it-te elleti[i] zi-ti [...] 
I asked .. [.]. Like a pure portion, my portion [...]

7) {ù} e-nin-na-ma at-ta-ṣi-ma ag-da-me-il na-pu-uš-
   [te-ka]
And now I have departed and spared [your] life,

8) {ù} a-na-ku ina pu-ḥur ki-im-ti-ya u el-la-a-te-
   ya ud"niqā lu-qī
And I will offer a sacrifice with all my kith and kin.

9) [i]z-qur-ṣu-nu-ti-ma kal-bu bar-ba-ru u ša-a-[šu]
[He] called them, the Dog, the Wolf, and ...[.]
The broken text refers to offering a sacrifice with all of his [presumably the Fox’s?] relatives present. Perhaps this is an assembly gathered in worship, or simply a prepositional usage of puḥru. Compare CT 13 34:8 (SB fable of the spider) ša ina puḥru kimtiya and BWL 46:119 (Ludlul II) ša gimir kimtiya. (No citations of puḥru in close context with niqû are noted in CAD).

Source: VAT 13836, with Assur S6814. BWL p. 192 (OB or Cassite).

2.2.6 Series of the Willow.

4) i-na ki-ši û! (tablet LU) a-p[i ...

In reed-bed and thicket [...

5) at-ta-ma lid-di-x [...

You ... [...

6) lu šab-ta-ta bit ẖi-im-x [...

... ... ... [...

7) ina pu-ḥur kul-la-ti x [...

In the sum of everything . [...

8) mu-ḥal-liq ma-‘-du x [...

Destroyer of much . [...

9) lil-lum šá iššîّّّ [...

The idiot of the trees [...

Used in broken context in the sense of "all" or "gathering".

Source: K 8566+13771, BWL pp. 164-5, (no date).
2.2.7 Theodicy.

265) ú-taq-qam-ma ib-ri li-mad ši-ib-qí-ya
Pay attention, my friend, understand my ideas.

266) ú-ṣur nu-us-su qa sè-kar at-mé-e-{a}
Heed the choice expression of my words.

267) ú-šá-āš-qu-ú a-mat kab-tu šá lit-mu-da šá-ga-š[á]
People extol the word of a strong man who is trained in murder,

268) ú-šap-pal dun!-na-ma-a šá la i-šu-{ú} ḫi-bi[l-ta]
But bring down the powerless who has done no wrong.

269) ú-ka-an-nu rag-qa šá an-zil-la-šú ki[t-tu]
They confirm (the position of) the wicked for whom what should be an abomination is considered right,

270) ú-ṭa-ra-du ki-i-nu šá ṭè-em ili pu-u[q-qu]
Yet suppress the honest man who heeds the will of his god.

271) ú-{ma}-lu-ú pa-šal-lu šá ḫab-bi-lu ni-[ṣir?-ta?]
They fill the [store house] of the oppressor with gold,

272) ú-raq-qa iš-pik-ku šá pi-iz-nu-qu ti-’-ut-[su]
But empty the larder of the beggar of its provisions.

273) ú-da-na-an šal-tu šá pu-ḥur-šú an-n[u]?
They support the powerful, whose assembly is guilt,

274) ú-la-la ib-ba-tu i-dar-ri-is-su la le-e-[a]
But destroy the weak and drive away the powerless.

7 Following ANET p. 604, and reading proposed in CAD s.v. anzillu.
275) ú ya-a-ši it-nu-šu bēl pa-ni ri-dan-n[u]

And as for me, the penurious, a nouveau riche is persecuting me.

Refers to people or gods who support the overbearing "whose assembly (has) gu[ilt]" (Broken line).


2.3 Legal/administrative.

2.3.1 Code of Hammurabi # 5 = Via lines 6-30. (OB)

6) šum-ma da-a-a-nu-um (7)/ di-nam i-di-in

If a judge has tried a suit,

8) pu-ur-sà-am (9)/ ip-ru-úš

given a decision,

10) ku-nu-uk-kam (11)/ ú-še-zi-ib

caused a sealed tablet to be executed,

12) wa-ar-ka-|nu-um-ma (13)/ di-in-šu i-te-ni

(and) afterwards varies his judgment,

14) da-a-a-nam šu-a-ti (15)/ i-na di-in | i-di-nu

that judge they shall convict of

16) e-ne-im (17)/ ú-ka-an-nu-šu-ma

varying his judgment, and

18) ru-gu-um-ma-am (19)/ ša i-na di-nim | šu-a-ti

the claim which that suit
20) *ib-ba-aš-šu-ū* (21)/ A.RÅ-12-šu
had, 12-fold

22) *i-na-ad-di-in* (23)/ ù i-na pu-ūḥ-|ri-im
he shall pay, and in the assembly

24) *i-na *ši*GU.ZA (25)/ da-a-a-nu-ti-šu
from the seat of his judging

26) *ú-še-it-bu-ū-šu-ma* (27)/ ú-ul i-ta-ar-ma
they shall remove him and he shall not return, and

28) *it-ti* da-a-a-ni (29)/ i-na di-nim
with the judges in judgment

30) *ú-ul uš-ta(!)-ab*
he shall not sit.

2.3.2 Code of Hammurabi # 202 = XVIIb 75-81. (OB)

75) šum-ma a-wi-lum (76)/ a-wi-lim (77)/ ša e-li-šu
ra-bu-ū
If a man / a man / greater than himself

78) *im-ta-ḫa-aš* (79)/ i-na pū-uḥ-ri-im (80)/ i-na *ššUSAN GUD*
strikes, / in the assembly / with a whip of ox-hide

81) 1 šu-ši im-ma-ḫa-ա
sixty stripes he shall be beaten.

2.3.3 Nbk 104 (n. 15, 84-2-11)

11) 𒈹𒈹عان-𒈹𒈹PN₁ (12) / 𒀀𒈹𒈬PN₂

Witnesses: PN₁, son of PN₂;

13) PN₃ 𒀀𒈬PN₄

PN₃, son of PN₄;

14) 𒈹𒈬𒈬𒈬PN₅ 𒈹𒈬𒈬𒈬𒈬𒈬hashCode(UD)

and the assembly of the elders of Šamaš,

15) u 𒈹𒈬𒈬𒈬PN₅ ....

with the scribe PN₅ ....

The witness list for this legal dispute (involving the Šamaš temple) includes "the assembly of the elders of Šamaš."


2.4 Letters/economic.

2.4.1 OB letter. BM 80318 (Sippar)

30) [tup]-pa-ti-ya a-na(?) pu-ubah-ri-im al-qí-a-am

I took my tablets to the assembly,

31) Ṣi-iš-Šamaš wa-ši-ib UD.KIB.NUN₄ Ku-di-ya

GU.ZA.LÁ

Riš-Šamaš, the "Resident" of Sippar, Kudiya the "sedan-bearer"

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* According to Borger, AOAT 33/33A 𒈬𒈬varchar(16) can be read as sanga = šangû (priest) or as umbisag = ṭupšarru (scribe). Given the context, the scribe is probably identifying himself here.
32) ū Sin-na-di-in-šu-mi DUB.SAR ZAG-GA
   and Sin-nadin-šumi, the cadastral secretary,
33) tup-pa-ti-ya i-mu-ru ik-nu-ku-ma
   reviewed my tablets and sealed (Finkelstein: affirmed)
   them.
34) a-na Ša-lim-ṭe₄-eḥ-ḥu-šu UGULA.ŠU.1
   To Šalim-ṭehhušu the "Captain of Barbers"
35) a-na Ėt₁-šu ū-ša-bi-lu-šum-ma
   to his house they sent them.
36) Ša-lim-ṭe₄-eḥ-ḥu-šu UGULA.ŠU.1
   Šalim-ṭehhušu the "Captain of Barbers"
37) ba-lum-ma ša-ap-ti-ya iš-mu-ū
   without giving me a hearing
38) i-na UD.KIB.NUNʰ i-na Ė na-ap-ṭa-ri-šu
   in Sippar, in his bit napatrim
39) tup-pa-ti-ya iḥ-pi-ma
   broke my tablets.
40) iq-bu-nim ap-pi aq-du-ud ḫu-peg-e tup-pi-ya
   Upon being informed, and in consternation, the pieces
   of my tablets
41) i-na Ėt₁-šu al-qí-a-am-ma
   from his house I collected and
42) Ri-iš-Šamaš Kudi-ya ū XXX-na-di-in-šu-mi
   (to) Riš-Šamaš, Kudiya, and Sin-nadin-šumi
43) ū-ka-al-lim-šu-nu-ti-ma
   I showed them.
Land-right appeal to the king. Members of assembly verify the deed tablets but feel they cannot overrule the actions of a prominent opponent.

Source: J. J. Finkelstein, Some New Misharum Material and its Implications, AS 16 (Landsberger Festschrift), pp. 233-246.

2.4.2 OB letter CT IV 1,2 (BM 78176) 1.21, 1.51 (Sippar)

13) da-ba-ab-sú an-ni-a-am šá i-na ūmim₃₃-sú id-b[u]-bu
This his statement, which he spoke at that time,

14) ya-di-ri már is-si₄-da-gan ü VI šābu māru₅₇ ḫa-
na-at₃₄
reported Yadiri, the son of Issi-Dagan, and 6 people from Hanat,

15) šá da-ba-ba-am an-ni-a-am i-na šá-ap-ti-sú iš-mu-û
that this statement from his own mouth they had heard,

16) a-na zi-im-ri-ḫa-na-ta akil amurrim iq-bu-û
to Zimri-hanata, the Amorite leader.

17) ḫi-im-ri-ḫa-na-ta akil amurrim da-ba-ba-am ū-sú-a-tu
Zimri-hanata, the Amorite leader, brought that speech

18) a-na ʾsin-i-ki-šá-am šá-pi-ir su-ḥi₃₄ ub-lam
to the attention of Sin-iqisam, the commander from Suhi.
19) *iš-pu-*ur
Sin-iqisam, the commander from Suhi, had
20) *šú-a-tu û ši-bi-šú il-ku-nim*
this Zimri-hammu and his witnesses summoned.
21) *u ín-su-bíkí*
After the statement was proved in the assembly,
22) *u iš-*tu *da-ba-*bu *šú-*ú *i-na pu-*úb-*ri ub-ti-*ir-*ru
they took them to the temple of Yabliya for establishing [the truth].
23) *u iš-*tu *i-na bit *šú-ya-ab-li-*ya *da-ba-*ba an-ni-*a ú-ki-*in-*nu
After this statement was established in the temple of Yabliya,
24) *a-wi-*lum *šú-*am *a-na ma-*aš-*a-ar-tim ip-*ki-*is-*su
the lord (lit. man) Sin-ikisam handed him [Zimri-hammu]
over for detention.

......

20) *a-na šá i-na pa-ni ḫi-ṭi-*šú-*nu iḫ-[x x ...]
for which in view of their offense ....
21) *u-ul iš-*hu-*tu ú-ul i-*du-*ru da-*ba-*ab-*š[ú]
they did not fear or respect his statement.
22) *i-na da-*ba-*bi-šú-*nu um-*ma šú-*nu-*ma
In their statement they also (said):
23) *a-na da-*ba-*bi an-ni-*i ú-ul ta-*aš-*ta-*al-*la-a
For this statement you will not take booty?

9 See CAD B s.v. bâru, p. 128.
44) i-na bāb-īli a-na du-um-mu-qī-ku-nu mi-nu qī-iš-ta-ku-nu
What is your reward for your good deeds (done for the king) in Babylon?

45) ū ni-a-ti šá a-na ḫī-ṭi tu-ka-al-la-ni-a-ti
and us, whom you consider (as having committed) a crime,

46) ma-an-nu mi-na-ni il-qē
who took our number?

47) i-na da-ba-bi-šū-nu ū ma-gal ši-it-mu-ri-šū-nu an-ni-i
With their talking and (with) this, their tremendous rage

48) ma-am-ma-an i-[r]a-as-zu-nu la tu [x ..] ri
could no one their impetuosity ....

49) pí-i-šū-nu a-[šar i]š-te-en iš-ku-nu-ma
They made an agreement, and

50) ki-ma pí-ri-i[š-ti x ] x-zu-ti-šū-nu la še-me-e
because we did not hear their decision ...

51) ga-ti bīt a-bi-ni i-na pu-ūḥ-ri it-ta-aš-ḥu
they kept our clan away in the assembly.

52) i-na-an-na šá-ad-da-ag-dam i-na eš-še-tim (53)/
parakkam ... (61)?/ ū-šā-al-pī-tu
Now, as recently as last year, they have profaned the sanctuary ...

10 Note CAD E s.v. eššetu "recent times," and CAD š, s.v. šaddagda "last year." CAD š is less sure of the translation of this passage.
2.4.3 OB letter TCL 1 18 (AO 1630) (Sippar).

6) tu-uš-ta-am-ri-iš li-ib-bi
   You have made me unhappy

7) û mu-ru-us li-ib-bi ra-bi-a-am
   and great sorrow

8) a-na pa-ni-ya ta-āš-ta-ka-an
   put upon me,

9) ki-ma la a-tu-ur-ru-ú-ma
   as if I could not again

10) i-na pu-ḥu-ur aḥ-ḥi-y[a]
    among my brothers

11) šū-mi bīt a-bi la a-za-(12)ak-ka-ru
    mention the name of my family

13) te-te-ip-šá-an-ni
    you have treated me.

14) û a-ba-am išū-ū la a x [...] x
    and I can no longer [say] "I have a father."

The sender addresses the recipient as "my lord" and "your son". It appears that the latter's actions have ruined the reputation of the former.

2.4.4 OB Letter IM 49431.

1) a-na be-el- [....] / 2) ù i-zi- [.....]
   To Bel-[ ] and Izi-[ ]
3) qi-bi-[ma] / 4) um-ma i-{ku}-{pi-ša-ma]
   speak. Thus says Ikupisha:
5) a-na pu-{ūh-ri-im} / 6) ša a-mu-r[i-im]
   (When) to the assembly of the Amurru
7) a-li-ik a-zi-{iz} / 8) ma-āš-{pa-ru}-{um]
   I went and stood, Mashparum
9) ù su-mu-UN-a-bi-ya / 10) i-ti sa-mu-ab-bi-im {re-im]
   and Sumunabiya with Samu-abim the leader (lit. shepherd)
11) ip-ḫu-ru / 12) a-wa-su-nu iš-ti-at
   assembled. Their word was one (= they agreed)
13) ri-ki-su-nu iš-te-[en] / 14) [.....]
   (that) their bond (responsibilities) were the same.....


2.4.5 Mari letters. (OB)

2.4.5.1 Non-technical use. AHw classifies the following as status absolutus or adverbial usage:

ARM(T) 5, 15:

18) ū immerâṭi(ḫâ)-ya (19) it-ti immerâṭi(ḫâ)-ka
   and my sheep / with your sheep

---

11 When studying sources to determine the range of meaning for a technical term, it is important to recognize contexts in which that word is not used technically. Some illustrations of puḫrum translated in the sense of "all" or "together" are given on occasion to alert us to this usage.
20) pu-ḫu-ur li-ri-u

let them graze together.

ARM(T) 10, 5

9) .... PN₁ ʿu PN₂

.... PN₁ and PN₂

10) i-na bi-ri-šu-nu ni-iš ilāni-meš iz-ku-ru-ma

swore an oath between themselves

11) ū pu-ḫu-ur qa-qa-da-ti-šu-nu

and together

12) u[š-t]e-mi-du!

they have joined.

ARM(T) 10, 113

5) ki-a-am iq-bi-im um-ma šu-ma

Thus he said as follows:

6) a-na-ku-ū ū at-ti pu-ḫu-ur-ma

(IF) you and I together

7) ni-la-ak ū a-la-am (8) a-na ma-an-ni-im ni-iz-ib

depart, to whom will we leave the city?

ARM(T) 2, 39

53) a-di ṣi-bu-ti i-na ṣa-bi a-bi-ya la ak-šu-du ū

ṭe₂-mi 1[a

as long as the objective of my father’s troops has not

been reached and a report has not ...
54) ka-li-ta pu-ḫu-ur-ma ni-la-ak
let us go together.

2.4.5.2 Referring to council meeting.

ARM(T) 1, 24

5’) i-na pa-ni-tim-[m]a awīl ḫa-aš-ši-[i]m ki awīl Ur-[si-im]

Earlier the lord of Haššim, the lord of Ur[sim]

6’) ū awīl Kar-ka-mi-iš, ki ū-pa-ah-hi-ir-ma

and the lord of Karkamiš I assembled and

7’) ki-a-am aq-bi-šu-nu-ši-im um-[m]a a-na-ku-ma

thus I spoke to them, saying:

8’) pa-an a-wa-at Su-mu-E-bu-uḫ lu-mu-ur-ma

I am watching the situation with Sumu-Ebuuh and

9’) šum-ma na-ka-rum pu-ḫu(!)-ur-ma i ni-ik-ki(!)-ir

if there are hostilities, let us assemble and fight!

Assembly of several leaders over war plans. The verbal form
is used but not the noun. Note it is clearly a (small)
council from the context.

ARM(T) 2, 75

An administrator is here reporting to Zimri-Lim about
the wavering loyalties of the Qayeans. Apparently they were
supplying provisions to the troops of Hammurabi although
they had sworn allegiance to Zimri-Lim. The administrator
writes to Yamrus-El, the elders of the city of Qaya, and the
Qayeans, asking them to assemble:

8) \( \text{ki-i-ma} \) (9) 1 awīlim 2 me-tim ša-bu-um qa-qa-da-a[t] as / one man, 200 people, the leaders of

10) \( \text{Qa-a-em ù} \) \( \text{Qi-e-em} \)
the Qayeans and of the city Qaya

11) [ip]-ḥu-ru-nim-ma i-na pu-uḥ-ri-<šu>-nu assembled and in their assembly

12) [ki-a-a]m ad-bu-ub-šu-nu-ši-im (13) [um]-ma a-na-
ku-ma
thusly I spoke to them / as follows:

14) mi-nu-um ṭe-em-ku-nu an-nu-um
"What is your decision in this (matter),

15) a-yi-iš pa-ni-ku-nu ša-ak-na-[t]u-nu
where do you intend to go?

ARMT 2, 33

The writer Ibal-El is worried about the loyalty of the city Ašnakcum, and some troops are sent there. He then leaves the area and goes to the Haneans in "the heart of the land" to address them:

11') PN₁ ù PN₂ (12') a-na še-ri-ya i-na pu-ḥu-ur Hanê PN₁ and PN₂ arrived with me at the assembly of Haneans

13') a-na Si-ḥa-ra-tai ik-šu-du-nim um-<mA>-a-mi as-sú-
ur-ri
in Siharata. Thus I said: "On no account

14') a-na še-er be-lī-ya at-ta-al-la-ak-ma wa-ar-ki-ya
after I have departed to go to my lord
15') a-la-nu ša it-ti-ya na-ak-ru a-na Aš-na-ak-ki-imki
the cities which are hostile to me to Ašnakkm must not
16') la i-sa-an-ni-qū-ma pi-i a-lim la úš-ba-la-ka-tu
go over and the allegiance of the city reverse."

2.4.6 OB Nuzi.

HSS V 66 (tuppi mārūti = Adoption tablet)
8) mi-nu-um-me-e eqal ti-te-en-ni
all of the field of the security deputy,\(^{12}\)
9) qa-lum-ma-ni-ya 1 mimmu-ya
everything of mine, my entire part
10) pu-uḫ-ri-ya (11) a-na "na-aš-mu-un-na-ai addin
(of) my assemblage / I give to PN.
Sources: HSS V 66; E. Cassin, L'adoption à Nuzi p. 250.

HSS V 99 (tuppi tamkurti = "Agreement" tablet)
1) DUB-pi ta-am-ku-ur-ti
Tablet of agreement
2) ša 'ma-an-ni-ya DUMU tu-ul-du-kan-ga
which PN\(_1\) son of PN\(_2\)
3) ū ša 'an-a-nu DUMU ta-a-i-ū-ki
and which PN\(_3\), son of PN\(_4\)
4) i-na be-ri-šu-nu it-ta-am-ku-ru
have agreed between themselves.

\(^{12}\) AHW s.v. titennu = "Pfand-Stellvertreter" (security deputy).
5) um-ma 'ma-an-nu-ú-ya-ma
   Thus (said) PN₁:
6) mi-nu-um-me-e pu-uḫ-ḫu-ur-šu
   "All of his assemblage,
7) ša 'ta-a-i-ū-ki 2-šu a-na-ku
   that of PN₁ its double-portion, I
8) el-te-qè ū 'an-a-nu
   have received, and PN₁
9) il-te-il-tu il-te-qè
   a single-portion has received."

Sources: HSS V 99; AASOR 16, 45:5.

In these Nuzi examples, puḫḫu occurs in property lists as a synonym for "all my possessions."

2.4.7 Old Assyrian (Cappadocia).
18) ... ší-tí (19) šubātīša-ti-a 7 ku-ta-nu!
   The rest of my garments, 7 "tunics"
20) ša-pí-ú-tim (21) ū e-tí-ú-tim (22) pu-ūḫ-ra-ma ...
   thick and dark collect and ...


2.4.8 Dur-Kurigalzu administrative document.
7) šašatami (8) ... 1 ʷšUMURUB.ŠIR.ŠIR
   The stewart ... a copper chain
9) 6 ma-na šuqultıšu i-pad-su-ma
   weighing 6 minas around his waist he fastened,
10) a-na 'Ta-ri-bi mār 'Hu-na-bi
to Taribi son of Hunabi

11) "riqqi ša bīt pu-uh-ri
the apothecary of the ‘house of the assembly’

12) ip-qid-su i-ḥal-liq-ma
he assigned him. If he escapes ....


2.4.9 Neo-Babylonian royal correspondence.
2.4.9.1 ABL 716 (K 31).

R20) ... it-ti-šú a-dib-bu-ub-ma 20 30
I spoke with (complained to) him and many (20-30)

R21) tuk-ka-a-ta šá ul-tu bīt a-ga-a a-na-ku
warnings/rumors which from the house here

R22) la a-mu-ru la āš-mu-u u la i-du-ú a-na muḫḫīt-šá
I have not seen, nor heard, nor know of against me

R23) i-na-as-suq šá ap-pi-it-ti ina puḫru šá ʾardānīm
he throws, just as one who in the assembly of the
officials

R24) šá šarri be-li-yá it-ti-yá i-dub-bu-bu-ma i-tur-ra
of the king my lord with me disputes, he responds.

The writer is apparently comparing his current rough
treatment with what he might expect to receive in an
assembly before the king, where various options were argued.
The problem of course is that in his present position he has
no ability to respond to the charges.

Source: Pfeiffer, State Letters of Assyria (AOS 6) p. 144, # 199.

2.4.9.2 Harper 344 (83-1-18, 28).

R1) 'ba-ri-ki-ilu (R2) lara-k‘i-ú-a
   Bariki-ilu / the Larakite,
R3) ul-tu bit ki-li (R4) šá lara-k‘i ki-i iḥ-liq
   (who) escaped from the prison of Larak,
R5) ina puḥur nāšim (R6) a-mat šarri iq-ta-bi
   in the assembly of the people the order of the king he
   spoke
R7) a-du-ú a-na (R8) pa-ni šarri be-lí-i-ni
   Now to the king our lord
R9) ni-il-tap-raš-šú (R10) šarru liš-al-šú
   we have sent him. Let the king question him.

This is a fine example of a text in which the significance
is lost in its terseness. Clearly the escaped prisoner is
in trouble for what he did, but what exactly did he do?
Does amat šarri = "the command of the king" imply that he
attempted to impersonate a már šipri (messenger) of the
king? Did he slander the king or incite insurrection by
"speaking [against] the command of the king?"

Source: Pfeiffer, State Letters of Assyria (AOS 6) p. 62,
#70.
2.5 Hymns/Omens/Ritual.

2.5.1 Ištar Hymn (OB, Ur).

Context: A hymn of praise to Ištar, broken into quatrains (actually separated by lines on the tablet) which seem to be fairly independent of each other.

33) pu-ūḫ-ri-Ššu-un e-te-el qá-bu-ū-Šša šu-tu-úr
   In their assembly her speech is lordly, supreme

34) a-na An-nim šar-ri-Ššu-nu ma-la-am aš-ba-as-su-nu
   Beside Anu their king, as an equal she sits among them

35) uz-na-am ne-me-qí-im ḫa-si-i-sa-am er-Šše-et
   She possesses profound understanding, intelligence, and wisdom,

36) im-ta-al-li-i-ku ši-Šši ū ḫa-mu-uš
   They take counsel together, she and her lord.

Significance: Female gods have equal power and input in divine assemblies. Does Ištar replace Enlil here?

Source: F. Thureau-Dangin, RA 22, Un hymne a Ištar de la haute époque babylonienne, pp. 169-177.

2.5.2 CT 15 3 A Kummu

7) 6En-lil pa-Ššu i-pu-Šša-am-ma i-pu-ūḫ-ri ka-la i-li iz-za-ak-kà-Ššar

   Enlil opened his mouth and spoke in the assembly of all the gods

---

13 For the meaning of kummu as "bedroom," "interior chamber," and equivalent to é-nun-na, see Levine and Hallo, Offerings to the Temple Gates at Ur, HUCA 38 (1967), p. 53.
8) iš-ti-a-nu-um ša-du-ú i-li à(?)-ḫu-ur

"A certain mountain of the gods is delayed(?!),"  

9) ša-aš-ma-am il-qi-e-ma e-su-lum-ma

He (Adad) attacked in spite of a peace agreement. 


a-na maḫ-ri-ya

Let them bring Bēlet-ilī to me, let them have her enter into my presence"

Unfortunately, after Bēlet-ilī is brought in, the rest of the column of the tablet is broken off.


2.5.3 Hymn 2 VIII. (OB, Subartu)

2') an-nu-um ša-al-la-at Šu-mé-[i-im] e-li-[iš a-a i-l[i]

This, the booty of Sumer shall not go up!


The Subarean is indeed the desirable (object) for

14 Lewy translates as "one sole rock of the gods has stayed away." CAD I s.v. ištēnu p. 282 transcribes the line as: ištī Anum šadū ili wu-'u-ur [D-stative] = "with Anu, the mountain of the god is delayed." CAD notes that ištī followed by a noun occurs nowhere else in OB (s.v. ištī p. 283 c)). For further details of this difficult line, see Römer’s discussion, p. 192.

15 For the translation of this difficult line, see Römer’s notes p. 192f.
shearing, let the Sumerian shear that year after year!\textsuperscript{16}

4') iš<-tu>-um-ma it-mu-ú-šu "ištar û šu-ú x\textsuperscript{17} pu-

\textasciitilde{h}u-ur ur-du-ni-i-im

After he had sworn it, he and Ištar descended together

5') "ištar i-qá-tu gi-ni-i-ša

Ištar mediates\textsuperscript{18} her regular offerings,

6') ū-li i-pa-ša-ḫa-am a-na-a-ma "li-il-li

CAD E: she was not appeased ... Lillu.

Römer: she comes against(?) Lillu not for peace.

Use of puhrum either as "together, jointly" (following Römer), or as "attending an assembly" in which offerings were made (following CAD).


2.5.4 Hymn to Šamaš. KBo I 12

1) [i]-na ba-lu "šamaš šar ša-me-e û ir-și-tim da-

ya-[an] e(1)-la-a-ti

Without (the permission of) Šamaš, king of heaven and earth, judge of the upper world,

\textsuperscript{16} The transliteration and translation of this line follow CAD E s.v. erišt\textit{tu} A 2a) p. 299, rather than Römer (see his discussion).

\textsuperscript{17} So transliterated by CAD G s.v. ginû A 2a) p. 80. On the basis of this possible unclear sign, CAD translates the clause as "Ištar and he came down to(?) the assembly."

\textsuperscript{18} CAD G s.v. ginû A 2a) does not translate the verb here, and labels this section as "unclear."
2) [ǜ] ša-pa-la-a-ti na-di-in pu-ru-us-si-e(!) iṭ-lu šar-ru ́šamaš

and the under world, who gives decisions, the hero, the king Šamaš,

3) [ㄣ]a-nu ʿu ʿen-lil i-na ša-me-e pu-uh-ra ū-ul ū-pa-ah-ha-ru

An and Enlil could not organize an assembly in heaven,

4) [m]i-li-ik ma-a-tim ū-ul i-ma-al-li-ku um-ma-a-ti e-bu-ra

they could not give advice about the land; heat, harvest,

5) [k]u-u)š-sa ul i-ša-ak-kà-nu na-áš-ša im-ba-ra šu-ri-pa

cold they could not cause; rain, fog, ice,

6) [ṛ]i-tam ma-aš-qí-ta ša-ma: ša-am-ma šu-bulta(AN.TA) ur-qí-ta

pasture, watering place, grassland: grassland, ear of barley, vegetation,

7) [m]ar-qí-ta ku-ru-um-ma-at bu-ul šēri ša ma-ta-a-ti shelter, 19 food of wild animals of the plains of the lands

8) [i-na] ba-lu ́šamaš ū-ul in-na-an-di-in

without (the permission of) Šamaš is not given.

This passage shows the importance of An and Enlil as the

19 CAD M₂ s.v. marqitu B p. 285 notes that this term appears in a lexical list as a synonym of šammu, "vegetation."
leaders of the assembly, hinting that they are the ones who would normally call it into session.

Source: OrNS 23, p. 213.

2.5.5 Prayer of Divination Priest. YBC 5023 (in YBT XI, 1) (OB)

1) 𒀭Šamaš a-ša-ka-an a-na pi-ya ḫerinnam el-la-am
O Šamaš! I am placing in my mouth pure cedar (resin),

2) a-ša-ni-ip-ku i-na i-ti-iq pi-ir-ti-ya
I am wrapping it for you in the locks of my hair;

3) a-ša-ka-an-ku-um i-na sú-ni-ya
I am placing for you on my lap

4) ša-bi-am ḫerinnam
compact cedar (resin).²⁰

5) em-sí pi-ya utes qá-ti-ya
I washed my mouth and my hands,

6) ak-pu-ur pi-ya i-na ša-bi-im ḫerinnim
I wiped my mouth with compact cedar (resin);

7) aş-ni-ip ḫerinnam el-la-am i-na i-ti-iq pi-ir-ti-ya
I wrapped pure cedar (resin) in the locks of my hair,

8) al-ta-pa-ak-ku ša-bi-am ḫerinnam
I pour out for you compact cedar (resin).

9) el-le-ku a-na pu-ḫu-ur i-lí e-te-ēḫ-ḫi
Being (now) clean, to the assembly of the gods I shall draw near

²⁰ Although Goetze translates šabû as "compact," CAD Š s.v. p. 17 notes the meaning is uncertain, and may lie in the range of "glowing," "smoking," or "fragrant." AHw s.v. šapû p. 1177, translates as "covered with thick foliage."
10) a-na di-nim
   for judgment.

11) Šamaš be-el di-nim 'Adad be-el ik-ri-bi ù bi-ri
   O Šamaš, lord of judgment! O Adad, lord of ritual acts
   and of divination!

12) i-na ik-ri-ib a-ka-ra-bu i-na te-er-ti e-pu-šu
    ki-it-tam šu-uk-nam
    In the ritual act I prepare, in the extispicy I perform
    place truth!"

..... The priest offers Šamaš and Adad water to wash up
with, and says:

28) wa-ši!-ib 1 GU.ZA.MES ūrāšim a-ki-il 1 paššūr
    abu uqnim
    [.... Adad] who sits on golden thrones, and eats off
    lapis lazuli tables,21

29) tu-ur-ra-da-am ta-ak-ka-al tu-uš-ša-ab
    descend, eat, sit

30) i-na 1 GU.ZA ta-di-an di-[nam]
    on the throne and pronounce judgment.

..... After the final offering of "the plenty of Nisaba",
the gods are implored to sit down:

58) ši-ib 4 Šamaš qū-ra-du li-iš-bu
    Sit, valiant Šamaš! May the great gods

21 This line appears to describe the god's heavenly
abode, which they are being invited to leave in order to
come down to earth to pass judgment. This descriptive
formula is repeated in lines 38-39 (after offering the two
gods "the tribute of lordship") and in lines 45-48 (after
offering the two gods "seven and seven unleavened loaves").
59) it-ti-i-ka ilu₃₃₃ ra-bu-tum

sit with you!

Anum, Šīn, Nerigal, Inanna are then asked to "let Šamaš and Adad sit with you." Thus this divine judgment assembly consisted of a total of six gods.

Significance: Note the description of the heavenly abode: "golden thrones and tables of lapis" (ll. 28, 38, 45). A divine assembly is called for judgment (divination), which includes seating the gods and feeding them. This text shows that banqueting in the divine assembly is known outside of epic literature.


2.5.6 Rituals of the diviner. HSM 7494.

16) i-na ši-ik-na-at i-li ra-bu-tim i-na tu-up-pi ša i-li ta-ka-al-tum li-ši-ib

In the manifestation of the great gods, in the tablet of the gods, let a takaltu be present.

17) 'Nisaba tu-up-ša-ra-tum li-ša-ṭe₃₃₃ er di-na-am ʿSIPA ime-ra-am li-ṭe₃₃₃-hi a-na pu-ḥu-ur i-li ra-bu-tim a-na šu-lu-[um(?)] di(?)]-num

Let Nisaba, the (divine) scribe, have the case recorded. Let Nusku present a sheep for the assembly of the great gods, for the disposal(?) of the case.
Let the judges, the great gods, who sit on golden thrones, who eat at a table of lapis lazuli, sit before you.

The gods named earlier are Šamaš, Adad, Iššara, Guanna, Nergal. The plea is to "place a true verdict in the lamb I am offering."


2.5.7 Inanna's Elevation. SB bilingual hymn.

7) an du₃, ga-maḥ-zu sag ba-du ul-la mu-lu im-me

8) "a-nu qī-bit-ka šir-tu, ina maḥ-ri il-lak ul-la man-nu i-qab-bi

Anu, (when) your exalted word goes forth, who says "No" to it?

9) a-a-dim-me-er-e-ne-ke, "m?inim-zu an-ki-a te-me-en-bi dingir-na-me nu-še

10) a-bi ili₃₄ a-mat-ka te-me-en šamē* u ergeti₄ a-a-ū ilu le-em-ma

Father of the gods, your word is the foundation for heaven and earth, which god will not obey you?
11) en mas-sù uš-gar ni-te-na-me-en "sá-"gar-me te-àm

12) be-el mas-su-ú ma-lik ra-ma-ni-šá at-ta mi-lik-ni mi-i-nu

O lord, you are your own ruler and adviser, what (is) our advice (to you)?

13) ki-sikil "inanna ḫi-li-bi mu-un-ši-in-kar-ra "á-uzu a-ri-a-an-ši-ib

14) ana ar-da-tu, "iš-tar šá te-em-nu-ši id-ka i-din-ši

Give your strength (lit. hand) to Inanna, the young woman whom you have loved! 22

15) na-nam gi-na-zu an-gim zé-eb-bé-da da-gan-me-a zu-zu-ab-ta

16) an-na-ka ki-na šá ki-ma šamē kab-tu, ina pu-uḫ-ri-ni ud-di-ši

Your reliable positive answer, which is as important (firm) as the heavens, you make known to her in our assembly.

17) "in-nin dim-me-er ḫili-bi mu-un-ši-in-kar-ra me-ur-zu si-mu-un-na-ab

18) ana "MIN i-lat te-im-nu-ši ḫi-im-mat par-ši-ka šu-ut-i-lim-ši

Give to Inanna, the goddess whom you have loved, the

---

22 Hruška translates as "with your young wife Inanna you are already delighted, give her your manly power." CAD N, s.v. nadānu p. 52, p. 43 renders the idiom as "give her your help/ assistance." CAD M, s.v. menû p. 19 translates as shown above. For the parallel line 17-18 below, see CAD H s.v. šimmatu p. 191.
collection of your divine functions!

This bilingual text links Sumerian da-gan with Akkadian puḫru. CT 19, 16 col. II:18-19 and others parallel da-gan with kullatu, "totality." Sol Cohen notes that since ME-A alone could mean puḫru (see lexical section), the Sumerian phrase would read "in the whole assembly" rather than "in our assembly."


2.5.8 šurpu (OB, but late copies).

Tablet II:

As part of a long list of sins which the offender may have committed:

51) mi-ra-nu-uš-šu eṯ-lu la ú-maš-ši-ru
   (He) did not clothe a young man when he was naked.

52) eṯ-lu damqa ina kim-ti-šú ú-še-lu-ú
   He ousted a well-to-do young man from his family,

53) qin-na pu-ḫur-ta ú-sap-pi-ḫu
   scattered a gathered clan,

......

69) ina NĪG.GIG mar-ši šá i-ku-šu
   Because of the evil taboo he has eaten,

70) ina ár-ni ma-a'-du-ti šá iḫ-ta-ṭu-šu
   because of the many sins he committed,

71) ina UNKIN šá ú-sap-pi-ḫu
   because of the assembly he divided,
because of the tightly united company he dispersed, 23

because of all the contempt for the god and goddess,

because he promised in heart and by mouth but did not give,

Based on their context, the above references seem to relate to family units.

after he heaved arrogantly, he started to pray,

disarranged the altar that had been prepared,

made his god and his goddess angry with himself,

standing up in the assembly, 24 said inadequate 25 words.

23 CAD I s.v. illatu p. 82 1) translates this line as "because he broke up a well-knit kinship group."

24 Šurpu Commentaries B and C both note that šipāru = puḫru (p. 50, l. 10; p. 51, l. 48). AHw s.v. p. 1244 2) notes these occurrences and adds šipāru u nanmuru ("meeting") from ACh.Ad. 7, 27 [Neither AHw or CAD list nanmuru separately]. Šipāru is probably derived from šapāru = "to send," "to write," "to order," "to administer, govern" and apparently is used as a synonym for an assembly in the sense that it is an organ of administration and government.

25 AHw s.v. šalmūtu "unwholesome".
82) lu-ū paṭ-ra ul i-di-ma it-ta-mi
Be it released, because he has sworn to facts of which he was ignorant,

As the immediate context prior to line 81 involves worship, it is possible that šipāru refers to the same context. It does not appear to refer to a family unit, since "standing up to speak" implies a more formal context.

Tablet III:
Among a list of oaths or curses:

35) ma-mit UDU.NITÁ ṭa-ba-ḫu u KUD-su la-pa-tú
   Oath: To slaughter a sheep but misuse the cuts,
36) ma-mit GIŠ bu-kan-nu ina UNKIN šu-pu-ū
   Oath: To show the pestle in the assembly,26
37) ma-mit ta-pa-li u tim-bu-ut-ti
   Oath of the cymbals and harp,
   ....
70) ma-mit GIŠ.IG u GIŠ.SAG.KUL n[a]-pa-[ṣ]a
   Oath: To break down a door or bolt,
71) ma-mit GIŠ.TUKUL ina UNKIN [š]u-pu-u
   Oath: To show a weapon in the assembly,
72) ma-mit ‘Nin-urta be-[el nik-n]ak-ku
   Oath of Ninurta, the lo[rd of the cens]er

26 A variant has ḫe-pu-ū = "breaking" as the verb. While the idiom bukānam šūtuqu = "to hand over the pestle" is an OB idiom for "to conclude a sale" (CAD B s.v. bukānu p. 308 b)), the meaning of this (symbolic?) action in the assembly is unknown.
The following occurs in a list of word pairs:

144) \textit{ma-mit \textit{sar-ri} u \textit{si-la-a-ti}}
Oath of lie or blasphemy,

145) \textit{ma-mit \textit{IZI.GAR} u \textit{KI.NE}}
Oath of lamp or stove,

146) \textit{ma-mit \textit{LUGAL.GIŠ.A.TU.GAB+LIŠ} u \textit{ID.BURANUNA}}
Oath of the "Lord of the poplar" or the Euphrates,

147) \textit{ma-mit \textit{GIŠ.GU.ZA} u \textit{UNKIN}}
Oath of the throne or assembly,

148) \textit{ma-mit \textit{LŪ.UŠ} u \textit{LŪ.TI}}
Oath of the dead or living,

149) \textit{ma-mit \textit{bab-li} u \textit{ba-bil-ti}}
Oath of the wronged man or wronged woman,

Note the parallelism between \textit{throne} and \textit{assembly} as governing entities.

Tablet VIII:
In the final absolution part of the incantation:

77) \textit{KI ma-mit \textit{GIŠ.BAN} GIŠ.GIGIR GĪR.AN.BAR u}
\textit{GIŠ.ŠI.KAK} ta-mu-u \textit{MIN MIN MIN}
Together with the oath of swearing by bow, chariot, sword or spear ditto, ditto, ditto

78) \textit{ina \textit{U₄-me an-ni-i} DIG~IR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ a-ši-bu AN-e}
\textit{"A-nim ina UNKIN-šú-nu lip-ṭu-ru-[ka lip]-šu-ru-ka}
Today, may the great gods who dwell in the heaven of Anu release [you], absolve you in their assembly."
79) NÎ.G.GIG an-zil-lu ár-nî šēr-tū gîl-la-tū ḫi-ṭi-tū
tur-tū m[aš-al-tu]
Taboo, interdict, sin, transgression, crime, error,
retaliation, que[stioning],
80) mi-iḫ-ru la ṭa-a-bu li-is-su-ū li-ri-qu
bad luck may move away, be far off ....

Significance: Absolution comes from the assembly of gods,
not from individual gods.

Source: Erica Reiner, Šurpu: Collection of Sumerian and

2.5.9 Prayer to a god. K2371 + K13791 (Nineveh, 750 BC)
6) ra-ba-ta ina É.KUR.BAD ma-ḥi-ra la ti-ṣū
You (Nergal) are great, you have no rival in the
netherworld,
7) it-ti ʾÉ-a ina puḥur ilāni mi-lik-ka šu-tur
your advice in the assembly is as important as Ea’s,
8) it-ti ʾSin ina šamā-e ta-še-ʾi gim-ri
with Sin you perceive everything in the heavens
9) id-din-ka-ma ʾenlil abu-ka sal-mat qaqqadi pu-ḥur
napištiṭi
Enlil your father gave you the black-headed people, all
living beings ....

Could be used here in the sense of "all, totality,
assemblage," but divine assembly may be equally in view. A
good example of ambiguity due to our lack of context.
2.5.10 Incantation CT 23 15-18.

13) ŠN UKU. MEŠ (nišē) mi-ta-tum am-me-ni IGI.IGI
(tannamarā) KI-ya šá URU. MEŠ-ši-na DUL. MEŠ
(tillāni) [x]-ši-na iš-me-e-tum

Incantation. Dead people, why are you appearing to me, (you) whose towns are the ruins, whose [food(?)] are bones?

14) ana-ku ul al-lak ana GŪ.DU₄.A.KI pu-ḥur GIDIM
at-tu-nu am-me-ni [DU]. MEŠ-ka ār-ki-ya tu-ma-tu-nu

I have not gone to Cutha, the gathering of the ghosts.

Why do you come after me? Be you conjured away by

15) "A-ba-tú .....

Abatu .....


2.5.11 Dream omens. (NB)

2.5.11.1 K 3941 + 4017. Tablet III col. II, p. 308 (cf. p. 264).

5) DIŠ ina GIŠ ur-ba-te a-šib NĪG NA.[ ] (6) SIG₄-šu [ ]

If he sits on reed: ... [ ], his good luck [will leave him].
7) **DIŠ ina KI a-šib DUGUD SAG.DU [TUK-ši ]**
   If he sits on the ground: honors [are in store for him(?)].

8) **DIŠ ina mu-li-e a-šib [ ]**
   If he sits on an elevation: [ ]

9) **DIŠ ina muš-pa-li a-šib [ ] (10) SŰHUŠ x[ ]**
   If he sits in a depression: [ ]

11) **DIŠ ina AMBAR a-šib [ ]**
    If he sits in a swamp: [ ]

12) **DIŠ ina UKKIN a-šib [ ]**
    If he sits in the assembly: [ ]

13) **DIŠ ina ri-b[it URU-šú a-šib ] (14) S[IGₙ(?)]**
    If he sits in the square before his town(?): his [go[od luck ]]

15) Too broken to read.

Contrasts sitting in the swamp/assembly (rural/city, dishonor/honor, obscurity/fame?)

2.5.11.2  K 9945 + K 10456 + K 12590, fragment perhaps from Tablet III p. 335 (cf. p. 292).

x+18) **DIŠ NA ina MĀŠ._GEₙ-šú KI UKKIN šal-ta DÙ-[uš ]**
    If a man in his dream quarrels in the assembly: [ ]

x+19) **DIŠ KI AD-šú LÛ.NE DÙ-uš AB.[BA-ta ]**
    If he quarrels with his father: ol[d age ]

The text continues, listing quarrels with one’s grandfather, mother, brother, and wife, before breaking off. Oppenheim
notes that since this text mentions quarrels with the assembly, it implies that this social institution is still functioning -- or still remembered.


2.5.12 Hymn of praise to Marduk, K 3351. (Nineveh, 750 BC)
Context: List of attributes and praises of Marduk,
11) a-na te-bi-šú ez-zi šá i'-ir-ru ul ib-ši
   There is no one who can withstand his terrible attack,
12) be-lum ra-āš-bu šá ina pu-ḥur ilāni rabūti šin-
   na-as-su la ib-ba-šú-u
   Fearful lord, who does not have an equal in the assembly of the great gods,
13) i-na bu-ru-mi ellūti₅₉₅ šá-ru-uḥ ta-lu-uk-šú
   his course is majestic in the bright firmament ....
Significance: "Great gods" may refer to the 7 great gods, not to the general assembly.

Source: E. Ebeling, Die akkadische Gebetsserie Handerhebung ... (Berlin, 1953), p. 94; King, STC I, p. 204ff.

2.5.13 Dialogue between Aššurbanipal and Nabû. VAB 7, p. 346 K 1285 Rs. 26ff. (NA, Nineveh)
25) ... šārē ṭābūti ina napšāti-ka a-paq-qid
   (Nabû:) "... I will provide good winds in your life.
26) \(\text{pi-ya am-me-u šá ṭábi ik-ta-nar-rab-ka ina puḫur DIG-IR-mēš GAL-mēš . . . .}\\
\text{My mouth will repeatedly bless you (with) good things in the assembly of the great gods.}\\
\)

R1) \(\text{ip-te-te 'Aššur-bān-apli up-ni-šu it-ta-na-aḥ-ḥar a-na 'Nabū bēli-šu}\\
\text{Assurbanipal opened his closed hand (in supplication), he repeatedly prayed to Nabū his lord:}\\
\)

R2) \(\text{ša išba-tu ina šepā 'šar-rat ninuaš la i-lu-ad ina puḫur DIG-IR-mēš}\\
\text{"He who seizes the feet of Šarrat-Ninua will not be ashamed(?) in the assembly of the great gods,}\\
\)

R3) \(\text{ša ina qa-an-ni šá 'ur-kit-tu ka-šir la i-lu-ad ina puḫur ḫa-da-nu-te-šu}\\
\text{he who is protected by (lit. bound to the hem of) Urkittu will not be shamed(?) in the assembly of his ill-wishers}^{27}\\
\)

R4) \(\text{ina puḫur ḫa-da-nu-te-ya la tu-maṣ-šar-an-ni 'nabū}\\
\text{In the assembly of my enemies do not forget me, O Nabū.}\\
\)

R5) \(\text{ina puḫur bēl ša-as-si-ya la tu-maṣ-ša-ra napšāte-meš-ya}\\
\text{In the assembly of my adversary do not forget my life.}\\
\)


\(^{27}\) On this difficult verb, see CAD L p. 36, s.v. lādu = "to bend, to be ashamed(?)"; ABw p. 527, "to go on the knee," "to bend," "to be humbled."
2.5.14 Examentext A.

1) **dub-sar dumu-a-ni ab-dim₄-e-dè**
   ṭup-šar-ru ma-ra-šú i-sa-[an-niq]

The scribe examined his "son" (and said):

2) **u[nkin-lú-u]m-me-a-ke₄-e-ne kisal-é-dub-b[a-a-ka]**
   ina pu-ḥur um-ma-ni kisal É ṭup-pi

in the assembly of masters, in the courtyard of the tablet house,

3) **gen-nu dumu-mu ki-ta-mu-šè tuš-a-ab gá-[na] ga-mu-ra-ab-du₂₂ giš mu-un-TUK-TUK-me-en**
   al-ka ma-ri ti-šab ina šap-li-[ya] ga-na lu-uq-
   bi-kúm-ma pe-ti u[z-ni]

come, my "son", and sit at my feet; let me ask you questions, and you answer me:

Significance: Shows the position of the examined in relation to the examiner. **Son** denotes a subordinate. Here we see a parallelism where **assembly** is used with **courtyard**, its meeting place.


2.6 Royal inscriptions.

2.6.1 Tukulti-Ninurta I: Inscription 6 and 14 (same) (MB)

1) **¹tukúl-ti⁻⁴nin-urta šar, kiššati šarru dan-nu**
   Tukulti-Ninurta, king of the universe, the mighty king,

2) **šar, mät ⁴aš-šur ka-šid mul-tar-bi**
   king of the land of Assyria, who conquers the proud,
3) la ma-gi-ri za-e-ru-ut 'aš-š[ur]
the unsubmissive, (those) hostile to Aššur,

4) ni-ir māt ā-qu-ma-ni-i (5) ū pap-ḫi-i la ka-ni-ši pu-ḫur
(those) not submitting to the yoke of the land of Uqumanī and Paphi, all

6) tar-gi-gi da-iš māt-kat-mu-ḫi
evil-doers, the one who crushes the land of Katmuhi,

7) um-ma-na-at qu-ti-i pu-šuq
the armies of Qutī, the one who makes difficult ....

Note this occurs among a long list of rebellious people and must be taken in a very general sense -- like "the unsubmissive," which does not refer to any specific region or people. A parallel phrase from a prayer of Tukulti-Ninurta (KAR 128) shows that "an assembly of evil-doers" is not in view, but puḫur is being used in the collective sense of "all, every":

31) gi-mir tar-gi-gi UD-ma da-a'-ma šá la a-pi-i
laš-maš [ ]
All evildoers darken the day like the sun not being visible ...


---

28 The Hebrew phrase דֵּלְדוּ לֵית "assembly/company of the wicked" is a cognate phrase commonly found in the Psalms (22:17, 26:5, 64:3, etc.).
2.6.2 Sennacherib. (Nineveh, 700 BC)

Sennacherib’s Annals, OIP 2 p. 82

36) aš-ta-kan si-dir-ta i-na ki-bit Aššur bēli rabē bēli-ya ki-i ștar-ta-ḫi šam-ri i-na lib-bi-šu-nu al-lik-ma si-kip-ti ummanātešš-šu-nu
I drew up the battle line. At the command of Aššur, the great lord, my lord, like a swift javelin I went into their midst and the defeat of their armies

37) aš-kun pu-ḫur-šu-nu ú-šap-pi-ih-ma ú-par-ri-ir el-lat-su-un 10rabūtimš šar kurElamti\textsuperscript{ki} ....
I accomplished. Their hosts I shattered, I dispersed their troops\textsuperscript{29}. The chiefs of the king of Elam ....

Prism, col. IV (OIP 2 p. 39)

53) ellātíšš-šu ú-sap-pi-ih-ma ú-par-ri-ir pu-ḫur-šu
His forces I scattered and I dispersed his host. (chiasm)

Prism, col. V (OIP 2 p. 43)

53) ... a-na Bābili\textsuperscript{ki} te-bu-ni
Drawing near Babylon,

54) a-di Šú-zu-bi kūKal-da-ay šar Bābili\textsuperscript{ki} with Suzubu, the Chaldean king of Babylon,

55) a-na a-ḫa-meš ik-ru-bu-ma pu-ḫur-šu-nu in-nin-du they exchanged courtesies and brought their host to a stand.

\textsuperscript{29} Note the chiasm in this phrase.
Used in military contexts as "host," "army," or "troops". Note the poetic and literary parallels with illatu (see CAD I)\(^30\).


2.6.3 BM 51,9-2 (Slab-inscription 1 in Rost) (Nineveh, 740 BC)

9) \(\text{āl šarru-ti-šu-nu} \text{ rab-a-kima til a-bu-bi} \text{ u-abb-bit-ma šal-la-su} \text{ aš-lu-la} \text{ Nabû-u-šab-ši šarru-šu-nu}\)

the great city of his kingship I destroyed like a hill of ruins, I took his captives. Their king Nabû-ušabši

10) \(\text{mi-iḥ-rit abul āli-šu a-na za-qī-pi} \text{ u-ši-li-ma māt-šu} \text{ aššat-su māri-šu mārāti-šu makkuru-šu}\)

I impaled in front of his city gate. His land, his wife, his sons, his daughters, his possessions,

11) \(\text{ni-ṣir-ti} \text{ ša ekalli-šu aš-lu-la} \text{ m'Bīt-A-muk-ka-a-ni kima da-ag-aš-ti} \text{ a-di-iš pu-ḥur niši-šu makkuru-šu}\)

the women of his palace I carried off. The land of Bit-Amukkani I threshed like a thresher. All of his people (and) his possessions

\(^{30}\) However, illatu is only applied to enemy troops and appears to be a pejorative use (cf. CAD I).
12) a-na -Assur u-ra-a ...
    I carried to Assur ...

Given the parallelism, it is most likely that puḫru niši here refers to the just-mentioned list of relatives, rather than to a separate group of people or to the entire surviving population of the area.


2.6.4 Nebuchadnezzar II royal inscription # 17.

Col. I, p. 144f:

32) dannu ši-ri-im (33) [qa-ra]-du ka-ab-tu
    [Marduk] outstanding in strength / the mighty hero,

34) [a-šir] pu-uḫ-ri (35) [i]–gi–gi
    the one who supervises the assembly of the Igigi

36) [ù 'a-nun]-na-ki (37) [ ]
    and Anunnaki ....

38) 'en-lil ilāni ti-iz qa-ru
    the Enlil of the gods is lofty. 32

Source: Neubabylonische Königsinschriften (VAB 4), by Stephen Langdon.

31 CAD A, s.v. ašāru p. 420, lists definitions "to muster, organize,... to control, to instruct."

32 Cf. AHw p. 1363-4 s.v. tizgāru.
2.6.5 Nabonid #6.
Col I, p. 256:

34) ... ki-a-am az-kur-šú-nu-ti um-ma te-me-en la-bi-ri ši-te-`-ma

... thus I spoke to them: "Seek the old foundations and

35) pa-pa-ḫu ʾšamši da-a-a-nu na-pa-li-sa-ma bītā
dāra a-na ʾšamaš u ʾa-a bēli-med-a ip-pu-uš
look for the shrine of the judge Šamaš, then build an everlasting temple for Šamaš and Aya, my lords."

36) ina te-me-qu ʾšamaš bēli-ya ina su-pi-e-šú ša
ilāni rabūti puḫur mārē-ma um-me-a te-me-en
la-bi-ri

With fervent prayers to Šamaš, my lord, and with supplications to the great gods, the assembly of artisans sought for the ancient foundation.

37) ip-pal-su-ma pa-pa-ḫi u ʾubāti-ma i-ḫi-ṭu-ma ....

They traced out (even) the chambers and dwellings ...

Note that "the assembly of artisans" refers to a group of the king's craftsmen.

Source: *Neubabylonische Königsinschriften* (VAB 4), by Stephen Langdon.

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33 DUMU.MEŠ UM.ME.A has a broad range of translations, including "scholar, expert, craftsman." The best translation is not that evident from the context.
2.6.6 Ashurbanipal inscription. Col. I:

6) ilāni₅₆ ṭabūti₅₆ ina puḫri-šu-nu ši-mat damiqt₇₇ (tim) i-šim-mu

The great gods in their assembly decreed a favorable destiny,

7) uz-nu ra- pa-āš-tum iš-ru-ku-u-ni
great wisdom they gave to me,

8) kul-lat dup-šar-ru-ti ú-ša-ḫi-zu ka-ra-ši
all of the scribal arts they caused my mind to grasp,

9) ina puḫur lu-li-me zi-kir šumi-ya ú-šar-ri-ḫu
they exalted my name in the assembly of the stags,

10) ú-šar-bu-u šarru-u-ri
they magnified my rule.

Piepkorn translates lulimₜ₇₇ as "princes," although CAD and AHw only cite it as an epithet applied to kings or gods (note Malku I 3 lu-li-mu = šar-ru). The sense of the line is thus that Ashurbanipal is exalted above all other kings, not that he is foremost in the assembly of nobles.


2.6.7 Vassal treaty of Esarhaddon with Ramataya. (NA)

Col III p. 45 (among a list of obligations):

212) šu₇₇-ma at-tu-nu UKKIN ta-šā-kan-a-ni a-ḫi-iš

(You swear) that you will not hold an assembly; that you will
213) tu-tam-ma-a-ni a-na l-en ina lib-bi-ku-un LUGUL-u-tu ta-dan-a-ni
not take an oath with one another giving the kingship
to one of you.

214) šum-ma at-tu-nu TA lib-bi ŠEŠ.MEŠ-šú ŠEŠ.MEŠ.AD.MEŠ-šú
(You swear) that you will not cause one of his
brothers, his uncles,
215-223) exhaustive list of possibilities continues ...
224) l-en ina lib-bi-ku-nu GIŠ.GU.ZA tu-šá-as-bat-a-ni
anyone at all of you to seize the throne.

Note here that an assembly is mentioned in the context of
granting kingship to someone.

Col V, p. 57 (continued list of obligations):
373) šum-ma šar?-bu ša UGU\(^3\) DINGIR.MEŠ ša pu-uḫ-ri
(You swear) that as for the šarbu\(^3\) who is over the
gods of the assembly
374) lu pa-ni-ku-nu lu ŠU.II-ku-nu na-pul-ta-ku-nu
you will not anoint your face, your hands, or your
body;

\(^3\) ša muḫḫi occurs as an idiom, "the one who is over"
in the sense of being in charge of something. Cf. CAD M\(_2\)
s.v. muḫḫi 2 b) 2', p. 175. Wiseman takes ša muḫḫi as "that
which is contrary to," in trying to make better sense of
this difficult line.

\(^3\) Frankena BiOr 18 (1961) p. 203b note to 1. 22 of a
tākultu ritual suggests that ŠAR-pu be read as šir-pu, which
can be translated as "frankincense" or "fire." However, it
is not obvious that "the fire/incense which is among the
assembly of the gods" makes any sense of this passage.
375) ta-pa-šá-aš-a-ni lu ina si-qi ... ...-ku-nu
you will not bind your ... with ...
376) ta-rak-kas-a-ni šá ma-mit pa-šá-ri te-ep-pa-šá-a-ni
nor do anything to dissolve the oath.


2.6.8 L4 Column I  (NA)
Ashurbanipal boasting about his intellectual abilities:
14) ittāt šamē u KUR-tim am-ra-ku šú-ta-da-na-ku ina
   puḫur um-ma-a-ni
   I am able to discuss with competence portents, both
   celestial and terrestrial, in the assembly of the
   experts.
15) šú-ta-bu-ka-ku šum-ma amūt mat.lat šamē it-ti
   NUN.NI-MES li-’-u-ti
   I am able to discuss the series "if the liver is a
   correspondence of the sky" with the wise
   apkallu’s.

The readings above follow more accurate dictionary citations
rather than Streck’s original translation (See CAD A, p. 14,
2e, *amāru* and *št* of *nadānu* and CAD A, p. 28 10 cl’ *abālu*).

2.6.9 Annals of Ashurbanipal. (NA)

Address to the god Ninurta, Col. I:

8) nu-ur AN-e KUR-tim muš-par-du ki-rib ZU.AB mu-ab-bit lim-nu-ti mu-šak-niš la ma-gi-ri mu-ḥalk-liq za-ya-a-ri ša ina puḫur DINGIR-MEŠ the light of heaven and earth, who brings fear in the midst of the Apsû, who destroys the wicked, who subjugates the rebellious, who destroys enemies, whose word in the assembly of the gods

9) zikir(MU)-šu ilu ma-am-ma la enû(u) qa-iš balāti ... no god can reverse, the giver of life ....


2.6.10 Eighth Campaign of Sargon. (NA)

139) ū ša-a-šú i-na puḫur karâši-šu e-sir-šú-ma sisêšša sinda-at ni-ri-šú i-na uṣ-ṣi mul-mul-li ū-sak-ki-ra šap-lu-uš-šu

and I surrounded him with all his troops, and his draft horses with uṣṣu-arrows and mulmulla\textsuperscript{36}-arrows I wounded under him

140) a-na šû-zu-ub napšâtiššu narkabta-šû e-zib-ma i-na 'ANŠE.KUR.RA\textsuperscript{36} ir-kab-ma miḫ-rit um-ma-ni-šû in-na-bit

\textsuperscript{36} Literally "sparkling" arrows. Perhaps this refers to their metal tips, hence the urud determinative (MSL 7, 146), in contrast with uṣṣu which uses the giš determinative (AHw p. 1439) and may usually refer to reed arrows. Metal-tipped arrows have greater armor-piercing capacity.
in order to save his life, he abandoned his chariot, mounted a mare and fled ahead of his army.

141) \( ^1 \text{Me-ta-at-ti} ^\text{Kurzi-kir-ta-a-a} \text{a-di} \text{šarrāni} \text{šā li-me-ti-šu} \text{pu-ḫur-šū-un} \text{ū-šam-qit-ma} \text{ū-par-ri-ra} \text{ki-iš-ri-šū-un} \)

Metatti the Zikirtian together with the kinglets, his neighbors, all of them I defeated and scattered their army.

175) \( ^\text{a-lik} \text{pa-ni-šū-nu} \text{mu-du-ut} \text{qab-li} \text{šā la-pa-an} \text{kakkī} \text{iq-ru-bu} \text{ṣi-ru-uš-šū-un} \)

when their leaders, who, although experienced in battle, had fled from the fight, arrived before them covered with blood (lit. the venom of death),

176) \( ^\text{da-lil} \text{A-šur} \text{be-li-ya} \text{šā i-na} \text{pu-ḫur} \text{īmun-dāḫ-ṣi-šu-nu} \text{mul-tāḫ-tu} \text{la} \text{i-si-tu-ma} \text{ū-ša-an-nu-šū-nu-ti-ma} \text{ik-šud-du} \text{mi-tu-ti-š} \text{and reported to them the glory of my lord Aššur, who had not let one of their fighting troops escape, they nearly died (of fright).} \)

All the occurrences of puḫru in this text appear to be prepositional uses.

Chapter 4.
Observations on assembly protocol.

Reviewing the primary source information available to us shows that the bulk of attested ancient assemblies were administrative in nature -- this is especially clear when we realize that divine assemblies were usually convened for administrative functions as well (to decree fates, respond to emergencies, etc.).

The largest surviving passage that presents an assembly at work is the *Atra-Hasis* epic. *Enuma eliš* also contains several assembly scenes, but we need to bear in mind that some of them may be non-normative when they deal with the choosing of a leader (Marduk) to preside over the assembly. From these major texts and the insights gleaned elsewhere, we can deduce the following features that characterize a typical administrative assembly:

1) Banqueting is a common prelude to a divine assembly.  
2.1.1 (*Enuma III* 131, VI 68f); 2.5.6 (incantation).

Although no attested human administrative assemblies began with a meal and/or revelry, the gods, when not called into emergency session, often began with a banquet.¹

¹ The question arises that if there are no attested human parallels to banquets preceding assemblies, how was this ever ascribed to the gods? A similar issue appears with female god's involvement as equals in divine assemblies, which also has no human parallels (see below). Taking a cue from Jacobsen's analysis of the battle between Marduk and Tiamat in *Enuma eliš*
2) The terms used for a convened assembly are ukkin-gar-ra or šakānu puḥru. 1.1.4 (Lugalbanda), 1.1.5 (Enmerkar), 1.3.10 (SLTNi 79), 2.1.1 (Enuma II 125).

These appear to be Sumerian and Akkadian idioms.

3) Members of the assembly normally sit when in session. 1.3.1 (Lam. Ur), 2.1.1 (Enuma II 126), 2.1.3 (Atra-Hasis II vi 15f), 2.5.6 (incantation), 2.5.11.1 (Dream Omen III ii 12). Apparently they formed a semi-circle or "siege shield" shape. 1.3.4.4 (Šulgi O).

4) Persons addressing the assembly sometimes stand. 1.1.4 (Lugalbanda); 2.1.3 (Atra-Hasis I 103), messengers bow before standing to speak; 2.1.3 (Atra-Hasis I 122); 2.5.8 (Šurpu II 81).

Most commonly the speech of an assembly member/leader is introduced with "and he opened his mouth and said," with no mention that he stood up first. From this we propose that members normally sat to discuss and argue the matter at hand, but could stand for added effect.

5) Assembly leaders were located in the ša-unken-na-ka ("heart of the assembly"), or ina birišunu ("in their
midst). There are additional positions of honor in the assembly. King in 1.1.7 (Nungal), 1.3.10 (SLTNi 70); gods in 1.3.6 (Inanna hymn), 2.2.1 (Tamarisk); Kingu in 2.1.1 (Enuma I 147); Marduk in 2.1.1 (Enuma IV 15).

Although no clear seating arrangement is attested, special seats of honor are mentioned in addition to those reserved for the leaders. If we may generalize the semi-circle seating arrangement described in 1.3.4.4 (Šulgi 0), leaders sitting "in the heart of the assembly" probably means that they sat at its center, facing the other members (this would also be the logical position of honor among the assembly).

6) Divine assemblies occur in the ubšu-ukkinna. 2.1.1 (Enuma II 126, VI 140f).

Whenever a specific location for a divine assembly is given, it is most commonly in this holy area of a temple.

7) Voting or consensus were affirmed with "so be it" a-an-na, and roll call was taken in rank order. 2.1.3 (Atra-Hasis I iv 218, x rev. ii 44f).

Oaths or affirmations are made by the entire body, generally following the speech of one of the leaders. Since no clear situation is attested where a leader is
defeated in a vote,² it is difficult to distinguish assembly paradigms between a royal court format (where the leader hears advice but then issues a decree with which all must confirm) or a democracy (where the view of the majority carries the day).

8) Appeals are addressed to the leaders of the assembly (An and Enlil in 1.3.1 Lam. Ur).

Note that Inanna does not try to rally support for her position "from the floor" but feels that she can only appeal to An or Enlil directly. This adds weight to the idea that divine assemblies were modeled after the royal court.

9) Honor is accorded in the assembly by kissing feet. 1.1.3 (Zû), 2.1.3 (Atra-Hasis I 245), 2.1.1 (Enuma V 86).

It is interesting that the kissing of feet in praise is done both to female gods (Mah and Mami) and to male gods (Marduk). This act is in addition to praise by acclamation.

² In *Gilgamesh and Agga* (1.1.1.1), the elders of the city, according to Kramer’s interpretation, recommend that Gilgamesh submit to the king of Kish. Gilgamesh then calls an assembly of the "men" (guruš) of the city, who agree with his plan to attack Kish. However, Römer’s translation makes better sense of the story by having both councils agree with Gilgamesh. In any event, no matter how we translate this human epic, a leader’s advice is never rejected in any attested divine assembly.
10) "Lifting the eye" in the assembly is a sign of approval or blessing 1.3.7 (Gudea hymn).

11) Female gods have an important role in the divine assembly and are co-leaders in some cases. Mah, "the lady of Norms" 1.1.3 (Zû), 1.3.1, 1.3.6 Inanna (Lam. Ur, hymn), Mami 2.1.3 (Atra-Hasis I 192f), 2.5.1 Ištar (hymn).

The sexual equality assumed in the myths and hymns is striking in light of the complete lack of evidence that women served on any human assemblies.3

12) Sumerian texts use the parallelism: "the command of the assembly of the gods / the directive of An and Enlil". 1.1.2 (Sumerian deluge), 1.3.1 (Lam. Ur).

This formula implies not merely that An and Enlil are joint leaders of the divine assembly, but that a royal court model fits its structure better than that of a divine democracy.

13) The idea of an assembly appears to have been added to some stories as it is not present in the oldest versions 1.1.1.1 (Gilg.), 1.3.1 (Lam. Ur), 2.1.2.2 (Enuma 3 IV), 2.2.1 (Tamarisk).

These examples cast some doubt on the universality of the assembly as a model of prehistoric human admini-

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3 This was first observed by Jacobsen in Primitive Democracy, Toward the Image Tammuz p. 160, note 22.
stration. If the concept is being added in later redactions, it could be proposed that the assembly idea itself arose at a later time and was edited into earlier narratives to contemporize them. At the very least it seems to indicate that the power of assemblies increased in later societies. However, this issue is especially critical to the notion of primitive democracy, since the council of elders of Uruk, the only case where an assembly may refuse to go along with the wishes of its leader (depending on what interpretation we take of Gilgamesh and Agga, 1.1.1.1), does not appear in some of the Sumerian antecedents of the Gilgamesh cycle. Without clear cases of majority-rule or leadership-defeat in antecedent texts, we cannot argue for a prehistorical democratic ruling assembly; we can only say that leaders sought (or demanded) community consensus before they undertook major actions.

14) Puṣrum or ukkin can refer to a "multitude" 1.1.8 (Gudea), 1.4.2 (Ewe), "mob" 2.1.3 (Atra-Hasis), "gathering" 2.5.10 (incantation), or a specific "group" of previously denoted people 2.6.3 (BM 51).

This should caution us against assuming that every non-prepositional occurrence of the noun "assembly" refers to a formal meeting intended to conduct official business. It is possible that such an unruly or ill-
defined group is in mind in the proverb (2.2.4 Counsels of Wisdom) which warns:

31) ina pu-ub-ri e ta-'ir ú-zu-uz-ma
32) a-šar šal-tim-ma e tu-ut-tag-ge-eš
33) ina šal-tim-ma i-ra-šu-ka šim-ta
34) ú at-ta a-na ši-bu-ti-šu-nu taš-šak-kin-ma
35) a-na la di-ni-ka ub-ba-lu-ka a-na kun-ni
36) ina pa-an šal-tim-ma pu-šu e tak-pu-ud
37) lu-Šal-ta-ka-ma na-pi-iḫ-ta bul-li

"Do not frequent a law court [lit. assembly],
Do not loiter where there is a dispute,
For in the dispute they will have you as a testifier,
Then you will be made their witness
And they will bring you to a lawsuit not your own to affirm.
When confronted with a dispute, go your way; pay no attention to it.
Should it be a dispute of your own, extinguish the flame!"

In light of the wider meaning of puḫrum attested from other passages, and in view of the parallelism ("do not loiter where there is a dispute") and the context -- that if you do, you may find yourself being the witness in a lawsuit -- it seems more plausible that this proverb is warning one to avoid the temptation of joining the crowd to watch a street-fight or similar quarrel. The proverb is sophisticated in that it does not caution about getting sucked into the actual fight or about being injured accidently from being near it, but it notes the less obvious but very time-consuming fact that if someone is seriously hurt in the squabble

4 BWL p. 101 l. 31-37. Translating line 31 as "Do not go to stand in the assembly," Jacobsen sites this proverb as evidence that "judicial functions . . . did not constitute the prerogative of some small favored class . . . anybody who happened along and had a mind to could 'stand' -- that is, participate -- in the puḫrum." (JNES II pp. 15-16).
and takes it to court, you may find yourself called in as a witness.  

The standard interpretation, as reflected in the above translations from *BWL* and *JNES II*, views the proverb as warning that the temptation to hang around law courts or legal assemblies should be resisted. However, I feel that this view is overly restrictive because it assumes that puḥru and šaltu imply a legal context (however informal). The notion that a šaltu can evolve into litigation is evident in the Assyrian Code:

§ 8  šumma sinništu ina šalte iška ša aʾili taḥtepe  
"If, in a quarrel, a woman crushes a man’s testicle"

§ 18  šumma aʾilu ana tappāʾišu lu ina puzri lu in šalte iqbi  
"If a man says to his equal, either secretly or during a quarrel"

§ 19  lu ina šalte ana pani ERĪN.MEŠ iqbiaššu  
"or he tells him during a quarrel in front of other men"

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5 Dr. Sol Cohen agrees with the standard interpretation of this passage, noting comparative literature such as Ruth 4:1-12 (where Boaz acquires the redemption rights of Naomi and Ruth via an assembly in the city gate). In this assembly, Boaz selects "ten men of the elders of the city" (v. 2) and the litigation is confirmed by "all the people who were in the gate, and the elders" (v. 11). In the standard model the proverb in question views such involvement as dangerous and warns the reader to avoid legal assemblies wherever possible so that he will not be called upon again should there be a future appeal of the case.

6 From *CAD* § p. 86 s.v. šaltu 1b). For context, see Meeks’ translations of the Assyrian Code in *ANET* p. 180ff.
Thus my preference is to read the passage as a warning against being an innocent bystander to a quarrel (šaltu) for which one becomes a witness in a later lawsuit (dinu).

15) In several Sumerian texts the term kalam (land) occurs in parallel with unken (assembly). In some contexts it is clear that unken is being used as a generic term for mankind (i.e., gathered people). In other passages it is not so evident whether mankind or a genuine assembly is in view. The occurrences from Chapter 2 (Sumerian sources) are listed below in their order of clarity:

1.4.2 Ewe and Grain (Lahar and Ashnan).

54) unken-na hé-gál mu-da-an-gál-le-eš
And among the gathered people they caused abundance,

55) kalam-ma zi šà-gál mu-da-an-gál-le-eš
And in the Land they brought about well-being,

1.3.8 Execration of Enemies of Iddin-Dagan.

20) sag-zi-kalam-ma-ka èn-tar-re ukkin-n[a-i]gi-gál
Who cares for the righteous, who keeps an eye on mankind (the assembly?),

21) nin-ti-la-ug₉-ga zi-kalam-ma-šu-du₉
Queen of the living and the dead, who holds the life of the land in (her) hand,

1.3.4.3 Šulgi F.

30) u₉-ba an-né ki-en-gi-ra nam bi-in-tarš kalam-e gù ba-an-dé
At that time, An determined the fate in Sumer, (and) called to the land;

31) \( ^{4}\text{aš-\text{im-babbar-re}} \text{ unken-né} \text{ ḫūl-}[a \text{ b]}\text{a-ta-an-ē} \)

Ašimbabbar brought out (the word) to mankind (if unken = gathered people) to the gods (if unken = divine assembly) in joy,

1.1.7 Nungal in the Ekur.

29) \( ^{\text{é-a}} \text{ múš-bé dūr} \text{ im-mi-in-gar} \text{ kalam} \text{ im-ta-ge-né} \)

She sits in the house on its ..., she strengthens the land,

30) \( ^{\text{lugal-ra} \text{ ša-unken-na-ka} \text{ igi} \text{ mu-na-ni-gál} \)

She has set her eye upon the king in the midst of the assembly (mankind?).

16) Elena Cassin observes that divine councils are always called by the leader of the assembly; in some cases the possessive is used to denote the god who convened it (referring to "his assembly" in 2.1.3 Atra-ḥasis S iv 4). They are convened for a specific purpose, and do not have a scheduled regular meeting cycle (monthly, etc.).\(^7\) This observation seems to weaken the notion of a democratic body that can be called into action by any god or concerned committee of gods.

\(^7\) Note sur le "puḫru(m)" des dieux, in \textit{La voix de l'opposition en mesopotamie}, Bruxelles: Institut des hautes études de Belique, 1973. I would note that ritual texts do have the divine assembly meeting on an annual basis to "decree the fates" for the forthcoming year. Other than this, the assemblies do appear to meet on an \textit{ad hoc} basis.
Chapter 5.

Neobabylonian Temple Assemblies and the Kiništu.

Having reviewed the available texts that contain the words puḫrum or ukkin, we found few which occur in or involve a temple context. In order to widen the search for texts that bear on the theme of temple assemblies, we investigated sources which mention temple personnel who may be involved in assemblies (kiništu, ramkû), texts which mention locations where temple assemblies might convene (kisallu, ubšu-ukkin-na, papaḫu), or terms whose etymology may be suggestive of a temple meeting-place (eginaptu). These studies, with their various additional degrees of insight, are summarized in the following chapters and appendices.

Cuneiform texts from the Neobabylonian period occasionally mention a group of temple personnel called the kiništu. This term has attracted attention in recent years because it may refer to a temple administrative board that is distinct from the (secular) city administrative assembly (puḫru). Unfortunately, the analysis of and meaning given to kiništu has been uneven in the past, thus it is necessary that we review the occurrences of the term in some detail before we can delineate a proper range of meaning for the term. Having done this, we hope to provide a greater insight into the importance of the kiništu in temple affairs.
Kiništū is a loan word from the Aramaic kni/uštā, which is derived from the root knš = "to gather."  Although all of the citations in CAD are listed under the single definition, "class of priests of a low status (concerned with the preparation of food offerings)", and this meaning is followed by Renger in his discussion of temple craftsmen, most contexts suggest that the term has somewhat more diversity, possibly even greater than that which the AHw definition "Priester-kollegium" (priestly staff/assembly) implies.

1 AHW p. 480; BDB p. 1097; Marcus Jastrow, A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the midrashic literature (New York: Choreb, 1926) vol. I p. 651.


10) um-ma 16KUR šá it-ti-qu ina mi-nim-ma A₃₄ i-šat-ti
How will the foreigner who draws by drink water?

11) ina PÚ ni-iq-bu-ú-nu i-šat-ti ina maḫ-ri-ya URU ina muḫ-ḫi
From the well which we have established he can drink!
By me no settlement near it

12) ul e-pu-uš e-pe-šu URU UR₃ ina lib-bi-ya ib-ši-ma ul-tu
was built; so it occured to me simply to built a settlement. While

13) SIG₄, LÚ ki-na-al-ta ina UGU i-lab-bi-ni a-di la URU i-na
A. General term for all temple personnel.

Often kiništu occurs as the last item in a list of titles or professions; consequently we must decide if kiništu itself comprises a separate group or if it is being used to summarize the previous list. That kiništu can be used in the latter collective sense seems evident from the Nabonidus text YOS 1 45 ii 30:4

_aššum bursagge ullašima ḫiti ti la rašē_
In order to keep the b-offerings ritually clean and not to have mistakes happen,5

ramkūt Ekišnugal u bitāt ilānī
The consecrated6 personnel of Ekišnugal and the other temples,

ēnu išippi zabardabbū išu 1šišu 161engišu
The high priest, purification priest, keeper of the bronze utensils, the brewer, temple cook,

the corvee people were making bricks, before the settlement

14) UGU ip-pu-uš 20 Lū gu-du-du šá 161a-ra-mu DU ku-niš-ma
was finished being built, came 20 Aramaic bandits ....


5 The translation of this line, which is uncertain at points, follows CAD B p. 333 s.v. bursaggu.

6 Derived from ramāku = "to bathe", the term means literally "the washed personnel" and applies to those who are involved in giving or preparing temple rites and offerings. I translate it as consecrated in the sense of "cleansed, set apart" without implying any nuance of permanence. For a review of the other occurrences of ramkū/ramkūtu in the literature see appendix.
ārīru 16itingallu 16itinnu 16DUL-ŠAM-ŠA 16atū-gal-lu, miller, chief builder, builder, X, chief porter,
ātir biti 16lagarru šākinu taqribti courtier of the temple, 8 1-priest who does intercessory rites
nārē muḥaddū libbi īlāni singers gladdening the hearts of the gods,
kiništum šūt nabū šumānšun the temple personnel, those who are mentioned by their titles,
ilikšunu apturma šubarrašunu aškun I released them from ilku-(royal)-service and I established their work-exemption,
ubbibšunūtimi I cleared them (of legal claims) and ana 4Sin ā Ningal bēlē’ā uzakkišunūti for Sin and Ningal my masters I made them free.

Since kiništū appears as the last item in the list and is qualified by "those who are mentioned [above] by their titles," it appears to function as a summary term equivalent to ramkūt(u) in the opening line. Because this list includes the ēnu-priesthood, kiništū can hardly refer to a "class of priests of low status"; rather it should be

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7 Cited in CAD N, p. 211 s.v. nidugallu.
8 tīr biti, see AHw p. 1361. Dougherty believes that this term is equivalent to ērib biti; Nabonidus and Belshazzar p. 125 fn. 410.
9 Translating the Akkadian literally, but taking šumu (name) as "title, or "position," which is within the range of meaning for šumu. Note Borger Esarhaddon 6 vii 25, bānū biti šūmī imbi = "(Aššur) named me Builder of the Temple" (CAD N, p. 33 1a2’b’), and TCL 6 54 r. 36, 33: GIŠ.HUR.MEŠ mala ina bārūtu šumšunu nabū = "the drawings (on the liver), as many as are mentioned in the corpus of extispicy." (ibid., p. 35 1b2’c’).
translated in the general sense of "temple personnel," independent of rank.

CT 2 2 also uses kiništu in this general sense: It records an investigation following the theft of a divine garment, and notes that the chief priest (šangû) and the ērib bīti's [literally "one(s) who may enter the temple"] of Sippar gave orders to "search the storerooms of the kiništi" [bit šutummi ša 16kiništi bu'û] for it. Some suspicious cloth is discovered, but the owner is cleared when he proves that he bought the material from an Egyptian. This search must have included all temple residences (except possibly the rooms of the ones authorizing the inquiry).

From these texts we may deduce that kiništu, like ramkūtu, is a general term for "temple personnel" and need not refer to a specific class of priests or workers.

B. The kiništu as a "group" or "assembly."

Kiništu, in addition to meaning "temple personnel," can have the more restricted sense of a "governing board" or "assembly". In this narrow usage, the kiništu can include the ērib bīti, as seen in VAS 1 36 iv 5, a kudurru from the time of Nabû-šum-iškun (~750 B.C.; published by F. Thureau-Dangin in RA 16 (1919) p. 140ff):

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10 Translation and some commentary are given by Oppenheim in JNES 21 (1967) p. 250 n. 77. See earlier translation by Kohler and Peiser in Aus dem Babylonischen Rechtsleben IV (Leipzig: 1898).
iii 5) ina kanâk ṭuppi šuāti
at the sealing of this document
(6) NSI mār A (7) ērib bīti 'Nabû šākin ṭēmi Bar-si-pa'11
PN son of PN, ērib bīti of Nabû, the city prefect of
Barsippa
(8) NE mār AE (9) ērib bīti 'Nabû šātam ekurrāti
PN son of PN, ērib bīti of Nabû, administrator of the
temples,
(10) NUŠ mār A ērib bīti 'Nabû (11) N mār AID ki.min
PN son of PN, ērib bīti of Nabû; PN son of PN, ditto;
(12) NU mār A šangū 'Adad (13) NAE mār A ērib bīti
'Nabû
PN son of PN, priest of Adad, PN son of PN, ērib bīti of
Nabû;
(14) MŠU mār ITI ki.min (15) NZI mār IB ki.min
PN son of PN, ditto; PN son of PN, ditto;
(16) NSI mār A ki.min (17) Z mār KN ki.min
PN son of PN, ditto; PN son of PN, ditto;
(18) M mār NS ki.min (19) A mār AID ērib bīti 'Nana’a
PN son of PN, ditto; PN son of PN, ērib bīti of Nana’a;
(20) D mār IS ki.min (21) Z ki.min
PN son of PN, ditto; PN, ditto;
(22) BE mār 'nangari (23) ērib bīti 'Mār-bīti
PN son of a carpenter, the ērib bīti of Mār-bīti;
iv 1) NSI mār AID (2) ērib bīti 'Sutiti
PN son of PN, the ērib bīti of Sutiti,

11 Personal names are abbreviated here with initials.
(3) P már KS akil nuḥatimmê (4) NL már IA akil sirāšû
PN son of PN, cook-overseer, PN son of PN, brewer-overseer,\(^{12}\)
(5) ėribū bīti kiništî šiḥîr u rabi (6) šüt Ezida
mala bašû
ērib bīti's, the kiništu small and great of Ezida, as
many as there were,
(7) izzizû u ṭupšarru
were present and the scribe
(8) NL már IS (9) šangû ᵔSutiti kalû ᵔNabû
PN son of PN, the š-priest of Sutiti, the k-priest of
Nabû,
(10) ṭupšar Ezida izzazu
scribe of Ezida, was present.

Note line iv 5-7: "As many ėrib bīti's as form the complete
[lit: "small and great"] kiništî of Ezida were present". In
this case the text is careful to note that all 18 members of
this kiništî are ėrib bīti's (assuming that aklu = overseers
have this status by default). However, as there surely were
many more temple personnel in Ezida than those mentioned
here, the term kiništî in this text must refer to the
"ratifying assembly" for this kudurru.

The use of kiništî to mean a "governing board/assembly"
that includes the ėrib bīti and other temple staff of

\(^{12}\) Note from the context that the office of aklu is
assumed to carry with it ėrib bīti status.
various ranks seems to be illustrated in several tablets that record the interactions between a king or official and the temple administration. The members of this administrative board are listed using the formula:

- Personal names,
- Citizenship (i.e., free status),
- Titles/Professions,
- the summary term: kiništu of Eanna.  

For example, An Or 8 48:16 (533/2 B.C.) lists 17 personal names, then gives their professions and citizenship as:

16TU.É 16UGULA-meš 16SIRAŠ-meš 16MU-meš 16GÍR.LÁ-meš
16<<KI>>14 TIN.TIR̃-meš ù 16UNUG̃-a-a 16kiništi Šanna = "erib biti, overseers, brewers, cooks, carvers, [free] men of Babylon and Uruk, the 16kiništi of Eanna."  

Note that the term kiništu appears at the end of the list and is not preceded by an ù, indicating that it is probably being used in apposition to the list as a summary term for the board that the 17 men comprise. This apposition-sense seems to be strengthened in line 23, where the above title/citizenship list is repeated (omitting the personal names), and ends with: 16kiništi Šanna mala ina ūppi šatu = "the kiništu of Eanna, as many as are written in this tablet."

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13 The order of citizenship and professions can be reversed.

14 Considered by CAD K p. 386 and M. San Nicolò Archiv Orientalni 6 (1934) p. 192 n. 2 to be a scribal error. This sign is not repeated in line 23.

15 In this text the kiništu determines that an individual is fit to be consecrated into priesthood and to receive the isqu (a stipend from a temple office). See San Nicolò Ar. Or. 6 (1934) p. 191ff.
A similar occurrence of kiništut appears in YOS 7 20 (~538 B.C.), following a list of ten personal names:

11) DUMU!-meš ba-ni-ya16 ki-na-al-tum17 šá É-an-na

free men, the kiništut of Eanna,

12) šá date (13) date a-na PN 16SAG LUGAL

who on ... to PN, the rêš šarri

14) EN pi-qit-tum É-an-na iq-bu-ú

bél piqitti of Eanna spoke

15) um-ma ina DU.SU-i-ni ina UKKIN šá "̂GAB-bi

thusly: in X, in the assembly of the city Gabbi,

16) PN 16PA.KAB.DU(šerku) šá ̃GAŠAN šá UNUG̃

PN, a temple slave18 of the Lady of Uruk

17) mu-saḥ-ḥi-ri šá EDIN ina muḥbi ta-bé-e19

a deputy of the steppe in the procession

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16 Tremayne read our DUMU! as GAL, which would be translated as rab bani = "building inspector," AHw s.v. rabû, p. 938 D 6. However, our orthography is not attested elsewhere. Given the similarity of the GAL and DUMU signs, I prefer the more common term mār bani (CAD M, p. 256) = "citizen, free person." Note that the -ya ending is seen elsewhere (VAS 6 247:1; TCL 13 124:1), and that "free men" can be associated with a temple, not only a city (YOS 3 111:11, CT 22 5:12).

17 There are several variant writings for kiništut, which depend on dialectical variations in the middle vowel (i/a) and on the influence of the adjoining t (-lt- and -rt- are attested).


19 Vocalize as tābē from tebü, cf. AHw p. 1342, 3e.
18) šá 𒀀asha-ka-a-a-i-tum ina 1 KASKAL.GIID(bēru) UD-mu šal-la-tum

of Aškayaitu in the first double-hour of the day, booty

19) GAL-tum a-na DINGIR-meš šá E-sag-ila E-zi-da

great for the gods of Esagila (and) Ezida

29) TIN.TIR₅₁ telefoneelix bar-sip₅₁ i-te-ru-ub

(into) Babylon and Barsippa entered. 30ff) witnesses.

Here the kiništu, which appears to be verifying the delivery of booty into temples,²⁰ is said to be comprised of "free men" (who have a greater legal status than slaves).²¹

In this context also note YOS 7 128 (~528 B.C.), where a person is on trial for killing a sheep belonging to a temple before the puḫru mār Bābili u Uruk "kiništu Eanna = "the assembly of the citizens of Babylon and Uruk,²² the kiništu of Eanna." UCP 9 66 no. 42:4 (~582

²⁰ Dougherty (The Shirkūtu of Babylonian Deities, YOSR 5/II, pp. 69, 90) and Speiser (Unrecognized Dedication, IEJ 13, pp. 71) feel temple slaves were involved in religious ceremonies and/or performed religious duties; Dandamaev feels that "in all probability the text implies that the action of the slave was considered illegal and for this reason was reported to the commissioner of Eanna as subject to the jurisdiction of the temple court (Slavery, p. 556).

²¹ Pessimistic remark: Both of the above examples could be translated as "... free men, temple personnel of Eanna" by taking kiništu to mean "general temple staff" as in meaning A above. Other than the fact that a specific number of men is listed, there is nothing in the context in these texts that implies that kiništu itself means "group" or "board" (other than its obvious etymology).

²² The important note to mār bānī in CAD M₁ p. 257, suggests on the basis of the context from this (note lines 9 and 28) and other texts that mār bānī is equivalent to mār
B.C.) is a receipt of ten sheep for "the citizens of Babylon and Uruk, the kinštu." Again, the lack of a conjunction u or ū implies grammatically that the terms mār GN and kinštu are being used in apposition.

C. The kinštu as a distinct class of temple personnel.

While we have noted that in some cases the term kinštu clearly includes the ērib biti and other personnel, there seem to be many examples where it does not appear in apposition to a list of temple professions but instead forms one element of that list: YOS 6 77 (~552 B.C.) lists at least 21 people involved in an interrogation surrounding the thefts of a temple gate-keeper, summarizing the list with ēribū biti "kinšti ū mārū bani." Belshazzar consults high officials to determine the precedent for sending divine garments from Eanna to other rival cultic locations in YOS 6 71 and 72 (duplicates from ~550 B.C.), which list this group as 16 named individuals made up of "Babylonians and Urukians, elders, ērib biti, and (ū) the kinštu of Eanna." Here the conjunction "and" appears to refer to a group distinct from the other professions listed, specifically from the ērib biti. YOS 3 152:8 (the Neobabylonian texts in YOS 3 are not dated) is a letter

GN.

23 "Free person, citizen." Cf. footnote 16.

24 This profession list is repeated in line 26. For translation see Dougherty, Nabonidus and Belshazzar, YOSR 15, p. 127ff.
regarding monthly ritual practices (parsu) addressed to the šatammu 16ēribū bīti u 16kiništī ša Eanna.25

Similarly, YOS 3 6, a letter from the king to all the citizens of Uruk, refers to "ten or 15 elders and the kiništī" in line 18:

1) a-mat LUGAL (2) a-na 16UNUGki-a-a (3) 16AB.BA-meš u 16TUR-
meš

Decree of the king to the Urukians, old and young.

4) šu-lum ya-a-sū (5) lib-ba-ku-nu lu-ú (6) ta-ab-ku-nu-šū

It is well with me, let your hearts be glad!

7) ina mubbi É pa-pa-ḫa26 (8) šā aq-bak-ku-nu-šū

Regarding the shrine/cella about which I spoke to you,

9) ki-i ina qaq-qa-ru (10) šā-nam-mu i-{šak-ku-nu}27

that at another site28 is located,

25 Iraq 21 p. 163, no. 54 contains a very similar salutation on line 3.

26 In the Neo-Babylonian period the bit papāḫu refers to the cella wherein the god "sat" or "dwelt" (ašābu). See A. Falkenstein, Topographie von Uruk I (ADFU 3) for references and discussion, especially p. 44, where he cites VAT 7849 iv 13-14, "papsukal u šarru qat" "anum ultu bāra-gal is.s.abatmas-ma irrubma ina papaḫašu [ušš]ab = "Papsukal and the king took the hand of Anu (and lead him) from Baragal and he entered into his cella and sat (there)." Note also AO 7439 rs. 9-11, which uses the same wording regarding Ištar's involvement in the Akitu-festival. Other texts which Falkenstein sites from Uruk often refer to the bit papāḫu as part of a larger temple structure (with courtyard, doors, anterooms, etc.).

27 We amend the reading of Ebeling {ba-āš-u} as Clay's drawings allow for our attested expression (see CAD Q s.v. qaqqaru A 5e citing CT 34 33 iii 4 and other examples in the article).

28 See AHw p. 1165, s.v. šanû II 3c; p. 901, s.v. qaqqaru 8d.
11) a-na ˹A.KIN-ya(mār šipriya)  (12) kul-lim-ma
to my messenger disclose it\textsuperscript{29}

13) . . . (14) li-it-tu-[ ] (15) ya-a-nu-ú a-mat
If not the matter

16) ša-lim-ti a-na ˹A.KIN-ya  (17) ụ 10 15 ši-bu-tū
openly to my messenger and 10-15 elders

18) ụ ˹ki-niš-ti  (19) qi-ba-a-mu\textsuperscript{30} lil-li-ku-um
and the\textsuperscript{31} kiništu you can speak, let them come

20) li-iq-bu-ni (21) šá la šá-la-mu (22) it-ti-ya
and (let them) tell me! The one who untrue (words) with me

23) i-dib-bu-ub (24) a-na ˹EN da-ba-bi-šū (25) a-ta-ri
speaks, (as) his adversary I will become.

The king is addressing all the people of Uruk because he
wants to know the location of some temple building, which
for some reason people are afraid to disclose to him
publicly. This fear could be apprehension of (1) reprisal,
if the king is trying to find out something that the elders
and kiništu do not want him to know. Thus he invites the
informer to a private audience with him. Or, (2) losing a
reward or recognition for discovering and/or disclosing the
site, because corrupt local leaders might take the credit

\textsuperscript{29} CAD K s.v. kullumu.

\textsuperscript{30} Taking as a 2nd common plural imperative from qabû
with an enclitic -ma (as -mu).

\textsuperscript{31} Note the grammatical possibility that the numeration
"10 or 15" applies to BOTH the elders and kiništu, i.e., "10
or 15 men from the elders and kiništu." The idea is that
the discloser tells the king's messenger in the presence of
reliable witnesses.
and so divert it for themselves. If this latter case is true, then the king is probably trying to locate the original site of the shrine in order to refurbish it (see qaqqaru used in this sense of "old, original site" in the citations of CAD Q s.v., A 5el’). As there may have been rewards and recognition at stake, the king invites people to tell him directly and privately where it is, if they are afraid of being "scooped." 32

An interesting parallel text lends strength to the interpretation that the king here is offering rewards to the workmen who find a cella’s original foundation: A Nabonidus inscription notes that the king wished to refurbish the Ebarra temple of Šamaš in Sippar, so he called together various city, royal and temple officials and asked them to find the old foundation (temmēnu) of the papāhu of šamaš. They return and report that they found the foundation deposit of Naramsin. 33 While nothing in the text is mentioned about rewarding the finders, it would be unusual indeed for the king’s obvious joy at the news not to have some positive benefit for the discoverers.

Fortunately, however we interpret the details of this letter, it clearly shows that kiništu, like "elder," is a specialized leadership term: The parallelism suggests that the kiništu are temple leaders and not general temple

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32 Dr. Sol Cohen disagrees with this interpretation.

33 Langdon, Neubabylonische Königsinschriften (VAB 4), Nabonidus 6, i 31-40 (p. 254-7).
personnel, since the elders are city leaders, not merely common citizens (mār Uruk or "Uruk) or free men.

Other examples which show a distinction between the kiništu and other temple personnel are: TCL 9 143:3-7, which warns that "no ērib biti should interrupt his assigned duty, no kiništu should interrupt his assigned duty on the 2nd, 5th, 7th, and 15th day." TCL 13 182:16 (~519 B.C.) records the judicial proceedings of a farm-land eviction and transfer carried out "ina puḫur of the citizens of Babylon and Uruk, the ērib biti of Ištar of Uruk, and the kiništi šüt Eanna."34 An Or 12 p. 72 line 15ff, a votive inscription of Aššur-eṭil-ilāni (~625 B.C.), is also not ambiguous:

15) u ša 16ērib biti 16kiništi nišī šuāte
   and those of the temple enterers, temple personnel,
   those people

16) mal bašū mušallimu alkakātišu
    as many as there were, those who keep safe his (the god’s) ways,

17) šubarra(šu)nu ana ūmē šāti iškun
    he established their (royal) work-exemption forever.

A very interesting text which refers to the kiništu as a limited group of temple personnel is CT 36 pl. 9-10, a

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34 See translation and discussion in D. Cocquerillat, Palmeraies et cultures de l’Eanna d’Uruk (559-520). Note that this text uses kiništu and puḫru for different meanings in the same context, but puḫru is written UKKIN, not 16UKKIN.
clay cylinder of Neriglissar (~560 B.C.): 35

9) É-sig, si-ḫi-ir-tim É-sag-ila mi-iḫ-ra-at IM.SI.SÁ
the perimeter wall 36 of Esagila facing north, 37

10) ša ra-am-ku-tim ki-ni-iš-ti É-sag-ila
where the consecrated 38 ones, the kiništi of Esagila

11) ra-mu-u qi-ri-ib-ša
    dwell 39 in her

12) šá šar ma-aḫ-ri uš-ši-šá id-du-ma
    which an earlier king her foundations laid 40 but

13) la ul-lu-ú ri-e-ši-ša
    did not raise 41 its summit (finish building it)

14) i-na ta-am-li-e iš-ta-ap-pi-lu-ma
    in terrace/fill they were always sinking 42 and

35 This text first appeared in PSBA X and was translated in VAB 4 216 ii 9. Unfortunately, the only significant revision in CT 36 concerns our context -- the building in question is not a "treasury" but a perimeter wall (igār siḫirtim).

36 So read by CAD S s.v. siḥirtu p. 235 la; and AHw p. 1040, 6b. See parallel reading in VAB 4 p. 182 ii 48 (cited in CAD I p. 38 2).

37 Rendered iltāni by CAD I p. 268 s.v. ištānu 1a.

38 See footnote 6 above.

39 See AHw p. 953 s.v. ramû 6c.

40 From nadû.

41 ullû D-stem from elû, see examples in CAD E p. 125 5a1'.

42 ištappilûma AHw p. 1169 s.v. šapûlu, Gtn-stem.
15) i-ni-šú i-ga-ru-ša
were dilapidated\(^{43}\) her walls

16) ri-ik-sa-ti-ša la du-un-nu-nim
her seams\(^{44}\) were not strong,

17) si-ip-pu-šu la ku-un-nu-um . . .
its doorframes were not in place, . . .

While other texts imply that the kiništu had private residences,\(^{45}\) the archaeological corroboration from Esagila for this text is insightful: Koldewey excavated two rooms within the perimeter wall on the north side of the Esagila courtyard that were behind a cella for the god Ea. Based on the remains found there, he speculated that these might have been dormitories for incubating dreams,\(^{46}\) but from our text it is evident that the kiništu resided there. Given the size of the rooms and their location, clearly they were intended for a limited group of elite personnel.

D. The kiništu have vague cultic duties.

YOS 3 51, a letter of Iddina-ahu to the šatammu and to Nabû-ah-iddina, shows the involvement of the kiništu in the preparations for a monthly festival:

\(^{43}\) eniššu see CAD E s.v. enēšu p. 166.

\(^{44}\) AHw p. 984 s.v. riks\u0303u B3b.

\(^{45}\) The kiništu appear to live in their own separate area at Eanna also, as they had door-keepers (YOS 7 16:10, PTS 2182).

13) na-šap-pu KÜ.BABBAR A₄ (14) ki-i la qa-tu-ú
the previously mentioned silver container¹⁷ that is
not finished

15) 1-en na-šap-pu KÜ.BABBAR (16) šá-nu-ú a-na eš-še-e-šú
one other silver container for the monthly festival

17) ki-niš-tum it-ti-šú-nu (18) liš-ku-nu
the kiništu with them⁴⁸ let (them) set up.

YOS 3 86 shows that the kiništu are not a group unique
to Uruk, and that they accompanied the gods in their
travels:

4) . . . gisMÁ (5) šá idAG-MU-ib-ni
The boat which Nabû-šum-ibni

6) ul-tu bár-sîp⁵¹ (7) id-da-ak-ka-am-ma⁴⁹
from Barsippa will dispatch, and

8) ki-na-al-tum (9) šá é-sag-ila
the kiništu of Esagila

10) ina lib-bi it-ti 'na-na-a (11) û 'GAŠAN šá UNUG⁵¹
in it (the boat) with Nana’a and the Lady of Uruk

12) a-na UNUG⁵¹ (13) ú-ri-du-'⁵⁰
to Uruk will travel downstream,

⁴⁷ See CAD N₂ p. 56.

⁴⁸ "them" refers to additional people (šābu) which the
sender of the letter is asking to have sent so they can
assist in carrying offerings (tallu).

⁴⁹ For idekkamma, see CAD D dekû p. 124, la2’ for
citation.

⁵⁰ for urrada, CAD D ibid. and CAD A₂ p. 214 1a10'.
14) ș16MÂ 16ki-na-al-tum  (15) šá é-sag-ila
    the (above) boat the kiništu       of Esagila
16) ina bár-sipki    (17) id-dan-nu-ū-ni
    in Barsippa                     will give to me.

Note that there is nothing in these passages which implies that the kiništu are a lower-class priesthood with the specific cultic duties of food preparation. On the other hand, we should note that the kiništu-texts cited in this section are vague enough that they could refer to either a "governing board" or to "temple personnel" in the general sense noted in section A.

E. The relation of the kiništu to 16UKKIN.

Dougherty was the first to observe that 16UKKIN, which literally means "men of the assembly", appeared in certain contexts where kiništu might be expected (YOS 6 92:22 [a judgment concerning a house from ~549 B.C.], and 240:20 [a record giving testimony relating to an ox from ~545 B.C.])53. Von Soden felt that in texts from the later Seleucid period (after 150 B.C.), 16UKKIN was to be taken as a word-sign for kiništu (CT 49 122:4, 147:4, 160:3, 168:6,

51 From nadānu, exceptional writing for a present tense with ventive and pronominal suffix, cf. TuM 2-3 35:11 cited in N, p. 45, 1b177.

52 CAD apparently drops the lú determinative in its handling of these texts, cf. CT 49 citations s.v. malāku A, CAD M, p. 158.

53 Raymond P. Dougherty, Nabonidus and Belshazzar, YOSR 15, p. 126, fn 411.
170:5, 190:33; also 140:9, 181:1, 182:4). Unfortunately, neither scholar gave a justification for this diction or cited a text which proved the equivalence. Consequently there are two views in the literature on this idea: (1) in agreement with the equivalence, as is van der Spek; (2) in maintaining there is a real distinction, as does Funck. To better understand the subtle underlaying problems here, we need to review the political makeup of this period.

The Greek conquest of Babylonia marked the first time that the conquerors did not assimilate the Babylonian culture. But then, neither did the Babylonian culture die; instead the Greek rulers and Babylonian subjects co-existed for centuries, with the rulers continuing to honor and support the ancient Mesopotamian temple institutions. However, the Greeks often would establish and settle in new Greek cities, to which the native population might migrate, sometimes forcefully (as appears to have been the case with Seleucia near Babylon).  

Thus in the case of the city Babylon, the only individuals living there towards the end of the Seleucid era were members of the temple community. Consequently there is

54 OLZ 70 (1975), p. 462 [Review of CAD K]; and ABW p. 877 a s.v. puḫrum.


57 Van der Spek, BiOr 42 p. 546, n 28.
no real distinction in Babylon between a "temple assembly" and a "secular assembly" because the temple community itself formed (what was left of) the city. As a result, those who attempt to distinguish between a kınıštû as the "temple assembly" and the puḫru as the "secular assembly" face considerable difficulty when working with Babylonian texts from this period. For example, McEwan proposes that the assembly in Babylon remained a temple assembly (so that the natives would be isolated from the Greek immigrants), while Uruk continued with a secular assembly (as there was not a appreciable Greek influx into the city). This moderating view is challenged by Dandamaev on the grounds that all Babylonian assemblies were actually secular city assemblies, and by van der Spek on the grounds that all Babylonian assemblies were first and foremost temple assemblies.

It is my suspicion that the truth is larger than each model, and that Mesopotamian society at this date had secular assemblies to deal with secular administrative and

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58 Thus, unlike Funck (Uruk p. 282), we can deduce no great significance to the fact that the Babylonian assembly is referred to as the 16UKKIN šá Esagila and as the 16E.KI.MEŠ (Babylonians).


60 OLZ 79 (1984) p. 145. After asserting and justifying the secular nature of the assembly, Dandamaev curiously goes on to comment that "membership in the assembly was indeed limited to those who were members of the temple community."

61 BiOr 42 p. 545.
legal affairs, and temple assemblies to be concerned with
temple affairs. While they could meet together in a "joint
session" in special cases where the subject was relevant to
both public and temple sectors of the society, the normal
occurrence of ¹⁷UKKIN refers to a city assembly, not the
temple kiništu. McEwan and others are confused by the
situation in late Seleucid Babylon because it had been
reduced to a city of priests!

To add to the confusion are a series of texts in CT 49
and BRM I which use ¹⁷UKKIN in the sense of "guild" or
"trade union". CT 49 190:2' refers to ¹⁷UKKIN šá
¹⁶UŠ.BAR.MEŠ (the guild of weavers); 140:9' to ¹⁷UKKIN šá
¹⁶MAŠ.MAŠ.MEŠ šá É.SAG.GÍL (the guild of exorcists of
Esagila); etc. Although von Soden and von der Spek offer
these examples as evidence that ¹⁷UKKIN = kiništu in this
period, they are hardly convincing since these groups are
"temple assemblies" only in the sense that the guild members
happen to be associated with a temple.

To return to the immediate problem -- how clearly can
we link the logogram ¹⁷UKKIN with kiništu? If the kiništu
is an administrative board, and thus a puḫru in the strict
sense, but one which can be part of a larger assembly of
temple or city personnel when the occasion demands it, then
clearly the terms are not equivalent. Therefore, since none
of the texts cited by van der Spek⁶² or Von Soden⁶³

⁶² BiOr 42 p. 545.
demonstrate an equivalence, we would agree with Funck that the terms should be distinguished. Thus we would conclude from our study that the *UKKIN* refers to (1) a secular assembly or (2) guild, while *kiništu* applies to a temple governing board.

F. Deductions from textual data.

From surveying the occurrences of *kiništu*, it appears that: (1) the term is very rarely used outside of a temple or sacral context; \(^{63}\) (2) it occurs as a general term for "temple personnel," which is synonymous with *ramkūtu*; (3) it can also refer to an "assembly," "group," or "governing board" (which may or may not include personnel like the *ērib biti*) in the same sense that *puhrum* does in a secular setting. Given this disparity in the texts from "all consecrated temple personnel" to "an (elite?) temple governing board," it is doubtful that we can further resolve the meaning of *kiništu*. It is unfortunate that *CAD* deduces that the *kiništu* are temple priests involved in the preparation of food offerings, as this meaning is not borne out by the readings in their contexts.

The majority of texts do show that the *kiništu* (in the sense of a "board") plays an administrative role in temple

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\(^{63}\) *OLZ* 70 (1975), p. 462 [Review of *CAD K*]; and *AHw* p. 877 a s.v. *puhrum*.

\(^{64}\) The only exception we are aware of was brought to our attention by Dr. Hurowitz (note 3) after he read a draft of this manuscript.
affairs: we see the kiništu trying burglary cases, determining isqu-status, and acting as witnesses to deliveries and land grants (kudurrus). When we can get some feel for its size, the kiništu ranges from 10 to 21 men. While it may be an artifact of the few surviving records, the kiništu's involvement in cultic rites almost appears secondary: Except for YOS 3 86 (the boatride to/from Borsippa), the "assigned duties" of the kiništu are not accessible to us -- they may have been only administrative, or determined by the individual member's rank/specialization and not by his kiništu-status alone.

The texts also show us that the kiništu (in the sense of a "board") may not have been the supreme ruling authority of the temple precinct: Many administrative texts are addressed to other members of the temple community (the šatammu, and especially the ērib bīti) in a list form that implies that the kiništu is being seen as a separate entity from the others. As one text (VAS 1 36) hints, there may have been two levels of kiništu ("small and great"), as two levels of secular puhrum ("small and great") are attested in the Old Assyrian merchant colonies. Thus it is possible that a "small" kiništu dealt with everyday affairs, but convened as the "great" kiništu (now including all of the ērib bīti, etc.) for times of crisis and important ceremony.

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G. Relation of kiništu to the Hebrew synagogue.

Otto Schroeder was among the first to note the linguistic connection between the word kiništu and its Aramaic cognates which appear in the Targums. On the basis of these he proposed that kiništu meant (1) "group of priests" or (2) "residence of this priestly group" or possibly even (3) "school," since synagogues were often places of instruction. Our review of texts brought to light since his study confirm his first meaning, weaken his second, and rule out his proposal of "school." No texts hint that the kiništu were involved in teaching or training other priests, but they do show a definite administrative involvement with temple affairs.

Moshe Weinfeld touches on this issue when he discusses the origin of the synagogue as part of an article on the origin of apodictic law in Israel. He speculates that this new institution arose as a by-product of a shift from royal to community support of temple needs in the Persian and Greek periods. Evidence for this shift from state to believer maintenance is deduced from the rise of religious societies throughout these empires for this expressed purpose. For example, in Judah during the Second Temple period, two support groups are evident: a keneset of priests who assisted in the work of the temple, and the Great Assembly (keneset ha-gedolā) composed of delegates.

from the population at large.

Although tradition tells that the *keneset* or synagogue got its start from the assemblies organized by Ezra, the linguistic similarity between the Hebrew *keneset* and the Akkadian *kiništu* suggests that the two institutions may be related. The vehicle for this relationship would be the Babylonian and Hebrew cultural intermingling that occurred during the exile (586-538 B.C.).

Weinfeld gathers textual evidence to support the notion that both types of *keneset* (A: priests and B: delegates) have Babylonian parallels. For the priest connection, Weinfeld appeals to the *CAD* definition that *kiništu* refers to a group of priests centered around the temple. However, from our review of the texts, we deduced that *kiništu* was not a group or class of priests, but an administrative board comprised heavily, if not entirely, of non-priestly temple personnel (craftsmen and others of ėrib bīti status, etc.). Thus a *keneset*-kiništu priestly parallel does not appear to be valid because the composition of the two groups is so different.

Similarly, a *keneset* composed of delegates from the lay community also finds very tenuous parallels in the Babylonian culture. Here the discrepancy between what Weinfeld calls "a congregation or gathering of the temple" and the *kiništu* concerns both the composition of the group (how we define "lay people") as well as its function (administrative oversight or actual involvement in worship).
For example, Weinfeld cites TCL 13 182 ("519 B.C.") because it mentions "the assembly of the sons of Babylon and Uruk, the ērib biti\(^{68}\) of Ištar of Uruk, and the kiništú of Eanna." The tablet records the administrative dealings surrounding a defaulted rental agreement, where the rent was to go to the Eanna temple. In this and other similar texts discussed earlier, we noted that kiništú is not the term used for the entire assembly, but only for one component of it (presumably the kiništú of temple personnel):

YOS 6 71 and 72: "Babylonians and Urukians, elders, ērib biti, and (ū) the kiništú of Eanna."

YOS 6 77: ērib biti \(^{16}\)kiništi ū mār bani.

Other texts are more ambiguous because we cannot tell if the terms listed are independent or in apposition:

YOS 7 20: mār! bani kinaltu šá Eanna

free men, the kiništú of Eanna.

YOS 7 128: puḫru mār Bābili ū Uruk \(^{16}\)kiništum Eanna

"the assembly of the citizens of Babylon and Uruk, the kiništú of Eanna."

UCP 9 66 no. 42:4: "the citizens of Babylon and Uruk, the kiništú."

Even if we understand these last examples as demonstrating that a kiništú could be composed of "citizens" in contrast to "temple personnel" (which is probably not

\(^{68}\) ērib biti occurs here in the singular, but it is undoubtedly being used as a class-noun (cf. YOS 6 71, 72) because more than one person held ērib biti status.
justified), Weinfeld's hypothesis still has difficulty because the terms mār bani or mār GN mean "free person," not "lay person." Temple personnel could be slaves who would not be permitted to have a role in a governing assembly. Hence we find phrases like the "free persons of Esagila" (a temple in the city of Babylon) attested in some tablets (YOS 3 111:11). Therefore, imposing on a social-status term (free/slave) a cult-status distinction (laity/priest) cannot be done with complete assurance.

Weinfeld cites the very difficult "Hyspaosines" text to support his hypothesis that "the population which was in these regions was organized as a religious community around the temple." This text was first published by Pinches and subsequently treated by Unger, Landsberger and McEwan. It remains hard to understand because of our lack of knowledge about its cultural setting. The latest and probably still not the final word on this text has been


70 On the relative rights and privileges of slave and free persons, see Dandamaev, Slavery, p. 467 n. 504; also discussion on pp. 86f, 386ff. While I am not aware of a text in which it is explicitly stated that a temple slave (šerku) has ērib biti status, it is possible that in some rare cases (where a temple artisan or official was also a slave [Dandamaev, Slavery, p. 512ff]) their duties required it.

71 BOR 4 p. 132ff.

offered by van der Spek, who undertakes a thorough
genealogical analysis and study of parallel texts to ferret
out its meaning.\(^73\) Van der Spek views this text as the
record of a \(^{16}\text{UK\text{\textdegree}N}\) of Esagila composed of Babylonians in
which the sons of a certain astrologer claimed their
(deceased or retired) father’s prebend, which they were
given after they demonstrated that they were capable of
making astrological observations themselves. Viewed in this
light, this text does not show that lay-people were pledging
support to the temple in a manner paralleled by that seen in
the book of Nehemiah; rather it shows that the temple
administration and staff were merely adding new members to
the payroll. The misleading term in the text is
"Babylonians": as we noted earlier, by this late date (127
B.C.) Babylon was reduced to a city of priests, hence the
city itself comprised a temple community, not a lay
community. This same weakness applies to all of the
references to the \(^{16}\text{pu\text{\textdegree}ru}\) of Esagila that occur in the late
Seleucid texts in \textit{CT 49}. Thus these texts do not illustrate
a temple-laity relationship of the type that we might at
first expect from them.

In reflection it is not difficult to explain why the
Babylonian culture contains only limited parallels for the
Hebrew "lay-congregation of the temple." Temples, like
royal palaces, were not public places in Babylonia. Entry
to the house of the god required special status (\textit{\\textdegree}rib biti)

\(^73\) \textit{BiOr 42} p. 548ff.
that was granted on an individual, not a collective basis. The general population viewed the gods only during the holiday processions (akītu-festival, etc.), and had no part in the secret daily rituals.  

On the other hand, Weinfeld is probably correct in noting that the Neobabylonian kiništu may be the precursor of the later religious societies. Although originally composed of temple personnel (non-priestly craftsmen, cult assistants, and not merely priests) and mostly involved with administrative duties, it is logical to suppose that this board could have absorbed more and more "secular" members as royal support of the temples eroded and the community of believers was tapped to provide for cultic maintenance. However, the abandonment of royal support for the temples in Babylonia is poorly documented, and certainly did not begin until well after the Neobabylonian period. Thus the Hebrews would not have seen the model of community-only support for a local Babylonian temple practiced during their exile.

In conclusion, the keneset as an "assembly of priests" does not parallel the Babylonian administrative council of general temple personnel that is termed a kiništu.

74 The common colophon to ritual texts reads "The rites which you shall perform may be seen by the novice; the stranger or outsider may not see them, or his days will be cut short. The initiate is to teach them to the initiate; the profane person may not see them; it is among the things forbidden by the great gods, Anu, Enlil, and Ea." (cf. S. H. Hooke, Babylonian and Assyrian Religion, p. 53). Clearly the rituals were not intended to be a part of public worship. For further background details see A. Leo Oppenheim, Ancient Mesopotamia, revised edition, p. 183ff.
Moreover, we cannot show that *kiništu* occurs in any Babylonian context that links it with a supposed secular community of lay believers, from whom delegates form the *keneset ha-gedolā*. The term *mār bani* ("free persons") that sometimes appears in close association with the *kiništu* only indicates that the individuals so-called have the legal status to be involved with administrative assemblies, but does not imply *by itself* that they have any interest in or adherence to the cult of the particular temple with which they are dealing. Thus, while it is possible that *kiništu* and *keneset* have more than a cognate linguistic relation (probably they assumed parallel administrative duties), their composition clearly differs. From our review of the Akkadian evidence cited by Weinfeld, it appears that his proposal to trace the origin of the Hebrew synagogue of laypeople to this Babylonian temple institution needs to be based on stronger source materials.
Chapter 6.

The Ubšu-ukkin-na

One type of temple assembly which we are aware of involves the gathering of the deities themselves at a location referred to as the ubšu-ukkin-na. A survey of the occurrences of this term allows us to glean a few details about the nature of the divine assembly and its relation to the temple.

A. The term ubšu-ukkin-na refers to a specific location within a temple complex.

Lamentation over the Destruction of Ur (AS 12), S.N. Kramer.

48) še-ib-urí̂-ma a-še-ir-gig-ga a-še-ir-zu GAR-ra
   O brickwork of Ur, a bitter lament set up as your lament.

49) é-kiš-šir,(!)-gál(!) a-še-ir-gig-ga a-še-ir-zu GAR-ra
   O Ekišširgal, a bitter lament set up as your lament.

50) èš-é-nun-kug a-še-ir-gig-ga a-še-ir-zu GAR-ra
   O shrine of Enunkug, a bitter lament set up as your lament.

51) ki-ûr ki-gal a-še-ir-gig-ga a-še-ir-zu GAR-ra
   O Kiur, the kigallu, a bitter lament set up as your lament.

52) èš-nibrû zî URû(?) a-še-ir-gig-ga a-še-ir-zu GAR-ra
   O shrine of Nippur... a bitter lament set up as your lament.

53) še-ib-é-kur-ra a-še-ir-gig-ga a-še-ir-zu GAR-ra
   O brickwork of Ekur, a bitter lament set up as your lament.
54) mà-giš-šú-a a-še-ir-gig-ga a-še-ir-zu GAR-ra
O Magiššua, a bitter lament set up as your lament.

55) ub-šu-kin,-na a-še-ir-gig-ga a-še-ir-zu GAR-ra
O ubšu-ukkin-na, a bitter lament set up as your lament.

56) še(!)-ib(!)-urú-kug-ga .... a-še-ir-gig-ga a-še-ir-zu GAR-ra
O brickwork of Urukug... a bitter lament set up as your lament.

57) é-SIL-sír-sír-ra a-še-ir-gig-ga a-še-ir-zu GAR-ra
O E-sil-sír-sír, a bitter lament set up as your lament.

In the immediate context the writer calls upon a large number of specific shrines (ēš), temples (é), and brickwork (še-ib)\(^1\) from neighboring cities to mourn in sympathy over Ur. The ubšu-ukkin-na is one of the sites which is appealed to by name.

Nippur Lament (ms. Green at U. Mus.)

5) ŠID-nibr\(\text{ki}\) èš dur-an-ki-a
The XX of Nippur, the shrine "Bond of heaven and earth,"

6) udu-dib-gin, ìb-sig ki-bi me-na gi,-gi,-
is made into desolation. When will it be restored?

7) ki-ùr ki-gal ba-dù-a-bi
The Ki'ur, the great place, though well built,

8) še-eb é-kur-ra ba-dù-a-bi
The brickwork of Ekur, though well built,

\(^1\) The use of these terms in such poetic clusters may suggest that they are synonymous.
9) **ub-šu-ukkin-na ba-dû-a-bi**

The *ubšu-ukkin-na*, though well built,

10) **ēš é-{gal-maḥ} ba-dû-a-bi**

The shrine -- how mightily was it built! --

11) **udu-dib-gin, ūb-sig ki-bi me-na gi₄-gi₄**

is made into desolation. When will it be restored?


1) **ē-gal**

The great house -- it is great on the mountain,

2) **ē-ēn-lil-lá**

The house of Enlil -- it is great on the mountain,

3) **ē-ēn-nin-lil-lá**

The house of Ninlil -- it is great on the mountain,

4) **ē-itim-ma**

The house of darkness -- it is great on the mountain,

5) **ē-u₄-nu-uzu**

The house which knows no light -- it is great on the mountain,

6) **ē-ká-maḥ**

The house of the exalted gate -- it is great on the mountain,

7) **ē-ká-silim-ma**

The house of the peaceful gate -- it is great on the mountain,
8) \text{kisal-}^4\text{en-lil-lá} \text{ kur-ra \ am-gal}

The courtyard of Enlil -- it is great on the mountain,

9) \text{hurst-sag-kalam-ma} \text{ kur-ra \ am-gal}

The \text{hursagkalamma} -- it is great on the mountain,

10) \text{ká-gal-di-kù} \text{ kur-ra \ am-gal}

The great gate "holy judgment" -- it is great on the mountain,

11) \text{ká-še-nu-ku_{s}} \text{ kur-ra \ am-gal}

The gate "uncut grain"\textsuperscript{2} -- it is great on the mountain,

12) \text{ubšu-kin_{s}-na} \text{ kur-ra \ am-gal}

The \text{ubšu-ukkin-na} -- it is great on the mountain,

13) \text{ga-giš-šú-a} \text{ kur-ra \ am-gal}

The \text{ga-giš-šu-a} -- it is great on the mountain,

14) \text{é-}^4\text{nin-lil-lá} \text{ kur-ra \ am-gal}

The house of Ninlil -- it is great on the mountain,

In all of the above cases the term occurs among a list of topographic names of shrines, courts, gates, etc. associated with the Ekur temple at Nippur. Unfortunately, the logical or topographic relationship between these sites is difficult to establish.

\textsuperscript{2} Cooper, following the suggestion of Falkenstein, argues that this problematic name should be rendered, "Gate from Which Grain Is Never Diverted" in the sense that an unending supply of grain for temple offerings flows through it (\textit{The Curse of Agade}, 1. 124, see note p. 247). For other citations of this gate, see references in Falkenstein \textit{ZA} 57 p. 43ff., and Kutscher \textit{YNER} 6 p. 110.

15) a-a ṾMu-ul-lil [urú-ta Ni]bru₃-ta
   father Enlil (...) in his city Nippur,

16) é-kur é-šà-ge-pà-da-ta
   in the Ekur, the favorite house,

17) gi-gun₄-na šisir-šim-sišeren-na-zu
   in the temple, a forest of fragrant cedar,

18) kissa-a-ka uri-[íl-la]-ta
   in the supporting wall, the raised standard,

19) é-šar-ra é-u₄-[di]-ta
   in the Esharra, the marvelous house,

20) [itima]-kù é-u₄-nu-zu-ta
   in the holy cella, the house that knows not the daylight,

21) [é-g]i-dim-dim é-i-bí-[nu-bar-re-ta]
   in the Egidimdim, the house no one may see,

22) [ká]-maḥ hi-li d[u₄-du₄-a]-ta
   at the great gate, decorated lavishly,

23) [ká]-mūš-a šisig-[lu-lim-a]-ta
   at the gate to the platform the "Stag-door,"

24) [kun]-sag kun'-é-[a]-ta
   at the main staircase, the staircase to the house,

25) [ká]-silim-[ma mu-mar-mar-ra]-ta
   at the "Gate-of-peace," with inlaid wood,

26) [kisal-maḥ-e ám-šár-šár-ra]-ta
   in the main courtyard (full of) numerous things,
27) [ḥur-sag-galam-ma an-da sá-a]-ta
in the hursaggalamma, which rivals the heavens,

28) [abul-mu še-er-ka-an-du₃-ga]-ta
at my entrance gate, lavishly decorated,

29) [ká-še-nu-ku ní-ḫuš gûr-ru]-ta
at the "Gate-where-grain-is-not-cut," bearing
terrifying awe,

30) [ub-šu-unkin-na me-zi ḫal-ḫal]-ta
in the ubšu-ukkin-na, wherein the appropriate me's are
allotted,

31) [mà-giš-šú-a u₃-zé-eb ku₃-ku₃]-ta
in the magishua, wherein enters the best quality fat,

32) [x-ta-"Nammu eš-bar-ak]-ta
in the "... of Nammu," wherein decisions are rendered,

Like the Nippur Lament, the immediate context around
line 30 describes Nippur, referring to its temples, gates,
and other features. What is noteworthy in this passage is
that several other locales are mentioned "where judgments
are rendered."³

AfO Bei 9, Esarhaddon Inscriptions, episode 41, p. 28, l.
37-43:

... ina nap-ḫar / šal-mat qaqqadi ḫalāq(ZĀH)-šú /liq-bi
... may he [Marduk] declare his ruin among all the
"black-headed" (people),

³ line 32: "in the '... of Nammu,' wherein decisions
are rendered"; 34: "in the house, Egalmah, the place where
great judgments are rendered"; 40-41: "... Enlil, the Duku,
the holy place, in the place where the fates are
determined."
ina Ub-su-ukkin-na-ki / ki-sal puḫur ilāni 𒀭𒊩𒌌 șu-bat / ši-tul-ti
in the Ubšu-ukkin-na, the courtyard of the assembly of
the gods, the place of conferring,⁴
a-mat-su / li-lam-min₅-ma u₅-mu / iš-tēn₆₇ la ba-lašt-su
liq-bi
may he make bad his reputation, may he not let him live
for even one day!

Labartu-text, ZA 16 (1902) p. 158:
7) ú-tam-me-ki ₄A-nim abi ilāni rabūti
I swear to you by Anu, the father of the great gods,
8-16) "ditto" [= I swear to you] by Ea and a list of other
gods,
17) Ub-šū-kin-na₅ šū-bat ši-tul-ti ilāni rabūti ša qī-rib
E-kur túm-ma-ti
by Ubšu-ukkin-na, the place of discussion⁵ of the
great gods, in the midst of Ekur, you have sworn.

K.3446+8830:15 (CAD K p. 418, courtesy Lambert):
[ina U]bšuukinnaki kisal ukkin dingir.meš ašar dini
[māti ibb]irru

⁴ For discussion of šitūltu see Jacobsen, Tammuz, p.
405, n. 53. The infinitive literally means "to ask one
another," with the translation range of "to deliberate,
reflect, to take counsel, consult, confer; to question,
interrogate" (CAD Š p. 274 s.v. šālu A 3, 4). AHw p. 1253
renders it as "Beratung."

⁵ The German translation in ZA is Entscheidung,
literally "decision," but šitūlti is better translated as
shown.
In the Ubšu-ukkin-na, the courtyard of the assembly of the gods, where the judgment of the land is observed [N-preterit subjunctive from barû?]

Note that these texts describe the ubšu-ukkin-na as a courtyard and a "place of conferring".

B. The location of the ubšu-ukkin-na.

Although the ubšu-ukkin-na is most often thought of in relation to Nippur, locations of the same name are associated with temples in Girsu, Babylon and Uruk. In the late Uruk Réš temple, Falkenstein correlated archaeological findings with ritual texts to conclude that the ubšu-ukkin-na was a large courtyard in front of the central temple building. At this temple, the kisalmaḥhu was a separate courtyard on the inside of this central building.6

In discussing the ubšu-ukkin-na mentioned in Gudea Cylinder A, Falkenstein speculates that it was a courtyard of the Eninnu temple in Girsu which may have been related to the kisal-maḥ. However, we cannot be certain about this connection because in later texts the two have different

6 This distinction between the kisal-maḥ and ubšu(n)kenna is maintained as early as the Ur III period. See ZA NF 48 (1944) p. 98 fn. 2 and Topographie von Uruk I (ADFU 3), pp. 10, 12, 22. For general background references on temple architecture, see Henri Frankfort, The Art and Architecture of the Ancient Orient, 4th revised printing (Baltimore: Penguin, 1969), pp. 6-8, 21-23, 51-54; Ernst Heinrich, Die Tempel und Heiligtümer im alten Mesopotamien (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1982); and Penhas Delougaz and Seton Lloyd, Pre-Sargonid Temples in the Diyala Region (OIP 58 1942).
dimensions.⁷

F. Wetzel and F.H. Weissbach’s analysis⁸ of the texts and archaeological finds from the Esagila temple of Marduk in Babylon paint a picture that is hardly clearer than that seen elsewhere. Most confusing is the so-called Esagila Tablet⁹ which lists the dimensions of the kisalmahḫu as 103m by 81m. This is appreciably larger than the actual measurements of the temple itself (86m x 79m), and almost exactly three times greater than the largest central temple courtyard -- that otherwise would be considered the kisalmahḫu. Since the tablet measurements also do not agree with any court sizes in an adjacent annex building, Weissbach mentions Landsberger’s suggestion that the two courts may have been so close together that the measurements for the kisalmahḫu included those of the ubšu-ukkin-na and other courtyards.¹⁰ Von Soden rejects Landsberger’s proposal as too contorted, and suggests that the tablet idealizes the actual areas for some unspecified reason.¹¹

Weissbach’s own proposal to resolve the discrepancy between the tablet measurements and the archaeological

⁷ AnOr 30 p. 141, discussion of line 50.

⁸ Das Hauptheiligtum des Marduk in Babylon, Esagila und Etemenanki (WVDOG 59).

⁹ TCL 6, 32; see Unger, Babylon, pp. 191, 246 and more recently A. Parrot, Ziggurats et Tour de Babel (1949), pp. 22-28; Th. Busink, JEOL 21 (1969/70) p. 125, 137f.

¹⁰ WVDOG 59 p. 55-6.

findings is to conclude that the kisalmahu was not a part of the immediate temple complex. Since this is out of line with our knowledge of the Uruk temple, we tend to concur with von Soden that the accuracy of the tablet numbers should not be stressed and the kisalmahu of Esagila was probably the central courtyard of the main temple complex.

Unfortunately, this confusion in placing the kisalmahu carries over somewhat to the location of the ubšu-ukkin-na at Babylon. Ritual texts from Esagila list the parak šimāte ("adytum" of decision) as a votive station for Marduk to visit before he goes out to the processional street. Because it is the last station listed inside the temple, Weissbach concludes that the ubšu-ukkin-na is probably one of the forecourts in the main temple annex. That the ubšu-ukkin-na was considered a part of the immediate temple complex is also confirmed by the Esagila Tablet, which mentions the ubšu-ukkin-na twice in the context of the Marduk temple.

12 WVDOG 59, p. 57.

13 Jin Sup Kim, in his Ph.D. thesis BARAG in Sumerian Literature: A Study of Historical Semantics with Emphasis on its Referent and Cultural Function (Annenberg Research Institute, 1991), argues that parakku is better translated as adytum (from the Greek, meaning "not to be entered"), the innermost room of a temple or shrine, rather than as "dias" or as "smaller structures upon which a throne could be placed to lift the seat of the king (or deity) above the level of its surroundings." (CAD D p. 166).

14 WVDOG 59, p. 61, fn 12.
Unger is less certain about the location of the Babylonian *ubšu-ukkin-na*,\textsuperscript{15} noting a text from Nebuchadnezzar which indicates that the gate between the *ubšu-ukkin-na* and the procession street is called KÁ-NIN ("gate of the lady").\textsuperscript{16} However, he interprets the text to be referring to a specially paved "side street" off the processional way, which he assumes would lead to a secondary building other than Esagila or an Esagila forecourt. However, in reviewing this text, there is nothing to merit the assumption of a side street or secondary building, and it can easily refer to an elaborately paved and decorated gate connecting an Esagila forecourt with the processional street. It should be noted that Unger later comments\textsuperscript{17} that this obscure reference to KÁ-NIN could be read as KÁ-SIKIL-LA, which is the "holy portal" of the adjoining ziggurat complex Etemenanki.

Although we have no clear idea where the *ubšu-ukkin-na* at Babylon was located, we can deduce from several references that it housed the *parak šimāte* (composed of a *du'um* and a *müšabu/ šubtu*). Given how it was decorated, it is safe to assume that it was protected or enclosed from the elements.\textsuperscript{18} From references to it in the Esagila Tablet,

\textsuperscript{15} \textit{Babylon}, p. 189.

\textsuperscript{16} Published in \textit{VAB 4} p. 130, col V, 1 12f.

\textsuperscript{17} \textit{Babylon}, p. 202.

\textsuperscript{18} See discussion in \textit{WVDOG 59}, p. 61.
it apparently was a walled-in area\textsuperscript{19} which was accessed from six doors which are described as "entrances for the gods,"\textsuperscript{20} who assemble themselves around the sides of the \textit{ubšu-ukkin-na} for temple rituals."\textsuperscript{21}

Regarding the location of the \textit{ubšu-ukkin-na} in temples of the Ur III period, some personal correspondence with Thorkild Jacobsen proved very insightful, and disclosed his fresh insights into the etymology of the term:

I base my interpretation on the oldest occurrence is Gudea Cyl A viii 14 \textit{ub-šu-kin-na-k} which I analyze as \textit{ub šu.kin.a.ak} "the corner of the assembly". The corner is that of the temple forecourt. For \textit{šu-kin} = \textit{kamāšu} I see MSL XIII 119, 153 and of \textit{gi-šu-KIN} = \textit{ḫimmatu} Hh. IX 337, cf. Civil JCS 28 p. 185 not. 5. As to its place in the standard temple plan I think it was the far

\textsuperscript{19} See \textit{azamū ša ubšu-ukkin-na}, CAD A\textsubscript{2}, p. 526; CAD Z s.v. \textit{zamū}. CAD feels that \textit{azamū} in some contexts is an architectural term and cannot be taken as \textit{assammū} (a large drinking vessel) on the basis of texts like Unger Babylon p. 234 F 1. 3: BARAG-šű šá ina a-za-me-e [ša Ė]-ḫur-sag-ti-la ana IM.3 nadū == "his [the god's] cella which is placed in the a. of Ehursargtila oriented to the east." The term should be viewed as a variant spelling of \textit{zamū}, especially in light of BM 40813:14, a Babylonian topographic text which mentions a \textit{za-mu-ū šá ub-šu-ukkin-[na]}. We note that AHW p. 75 lists this Unger text under \textit{assammu} without offering a more contextually sensitive translation.

\textsuperscript{20} Note Unger differs in not reading "gods" here (Babylon, p. 246).

\textsuperscript{21} "Seats" (\textit{šubtu}) or pedestals for the gods were set up in some temple courtyards, cf. KAV 42 r. 23; (parallel in OIP 2 p. 145, 1. 22-23): "The gate which is in front of Aššur, the royal gate, the gate through which one enters the courtyard, [called] the gate of the Enlil road, its courtyard is [called] 'Courtyard of the row of seats for the Igigi.'" Note also RAcc p. 93 l. 18, where as a part of the \textit{dik biti} (lit. "the arousing of the temple") ritual the gods come in from the \textit{ubšu-ukkin-na} to \textit{ina kisalmaḫḫi ana} \textit{Ani itarras ina kisalli ina muḫḫi šubti uššabū-ma} . . . "to gather in the kisalmahhu before Anu (and) to sit on "seats" (pedestals) in the courtyard."
right-hand corner as one entered the court and that it is identical with the **gú-en-na** (on which see OIP 98 p. 64) in location even though it may refer to a more widely based assembly. The later writing with **ukkin** I take to be a learned nicety, an erudite play.⁰²

An important feature of the court of Ki-ûr was the famous meeting place of the gods Ubšu-kinna. The name appears to mean "the corner of the gathering" as suggested by the writing **ub-su-kin-na** in Gudea. The baffling later writing with **ukkin** "assembly" was apparently introduced for paronomastic reasons. The corner of the court involved was in all probability the northern upper-hand one, for the plan of the Ekur complex parallels in all essentials that of Egišnugal in Ur which was also built by Ur-Nammu, and in the corresponding spot on the Egišnugal plan Woolley found a collection of throne daises clearly meant as seats for the administrative assembly there, which gave the court its name **kisal gú-en-na**. The corner in Ki-ûr was not excavated; it may have similar seats.⁰³

The above mentioned reference OIP 98, p. 64 n. 62 provides some helpful archaeological background for the **gú-en-na**, but does not link it explicitly with the **ubšu-ukkin-na**:

The notation [g]ú-en-na ... "The totality of éns" (i.e., productive managers) probably refers to the group of throne daises in the west corner of the **kisal-an-na**, so no **kisal** "court" should be restored before it. The courtyard around the ziggurat was known as "the main court" **kisal-maḫ**.

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⁰² September 16, 1990 letter from Thorkild Jacobsen, with humble postscript: "I may, of course, be wrong."

⁰³ December 10, 1990 letter from Thorkild Jacobsen, quoting his manuscript from the Philadelphia Rencontre. In the letter he notes that he is not sure when or if he will publish this work on the **ubšu-ukkin-na**.

⁰⁴ guennakku is rendered as "title of the governor of Nippur" in CAD G p. 120f. Levine and Hallo translate **kisal-gú-en-na** as "courtyard of the throne-room" in "Offerings to the Temple Gates at Ur," HUCA 38 (1967), p. 55.
As Levine notes that the equivalence of *kisal-gū-en-na* with the *ē-hur-sag* toponym is deduced by a process of elimination,\(^{25}\) and Jacobsen's *ubšu-ukkin-na* to *kisal-gū-en-na* equivalence has a similar element of uncertainty associated with it,\(^{26}\) we must remain hesitant of this association of names recovered from texts with actual temple courtyards. It is hoped that future archaeological studies and their associated textual finds will confirm this proposed relationship.

C. It is the place where lesser gods and kings go to praise and petition the chief gods.

Hymns in Honor of King Ibbīsuen of Ur *Orientalia Suecana* 19-20 (1970-71) Sjöberg, p. 140f. Citing CBS 11168 (Lines 14-20 are summarized as "a prayer of Suen to his father Nunamnir-Enlil in Nippur" [p. 141]).

12) *ēš-nibrū\(^{\text{k1}}\) šā-bi kur-ḥé-gál-la ki-tuš-ki-ūr-ra-ke,*

The shrine (of) Nippur, whose interior is a mountain of abundance, the place [dwelling] of the Kiru, <..?>

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\(^{26}\) The ambiguity arises in that more courtyards or temple area other than the *ubšu-ukkin-na* were equipped with seats or daises for the gods: note *RAcc* p. 93 l. 18, where the gods come from the *ubšu-ukkin-na* to be seated in the *kisalmaḫḫu*. The mere presence of seats in a temple area does not in itself prove that this site was an *ubšu-ukkin-na*. 
13) *nam-nun-na an-*{ta} su-{lim} ma-ni kalam ma mu-un-bàra-ge

In greatness he spreads his majestic light from above over the land,

14) *kisal-maḥ-e su-lim-*{ma’s} x-bì nu-tìl-e nam-gal tar-re-dè

In the lofty courtyard, (where) the ... of its majestic light does not cease, a great destiny is determined.

15) a-a-ugu-na u₄-ru-gal-an-ki en ‘nu-*{nam}* nir-e

To the father who begat him, the great ... of heaven and earth, the lord Nunamnir,

16) ‘EN.ZU-e ub-šu-unken-na-ka ʿu-gul mu-na-gá-gá

Suen in the ubšu-ukkin-na offers a prayer:

17) ku₄-gál nun-bára-ga nun me-tì-la šà-ge-pà-da-zu

"Canal inspector, prince on the dais, prince of the life-giving me’s, for the one whom you have chosen in your heart, ... (contents continue).


7) u₄-ba nin-mu inim-an-na-ke₄ ba-gub

On that day, my lady 'stepped up' to the word of An,

8) ‘nin-sün-na-ke₄(!) dam(?)-a-ni kù-*lugal-bàn-da nam ba-da-an-tar(!!)-re(!!)

Ninsun made a fateful decision with her spouse, Lugalbanda,

9) sizkur-ra-na mu-da-an-*{kūš}-ù

She heeded his prayer,
10) an-kū-ra ub-šu-kin-na-ka si mu-na-ni-in-sā  
She went straight to holy An, in the Ubšu'ikkina:

11) a-a-mu an lugal-dingir-re-ne-me-ën  
"My father, An, you are the king of the gods!

12ff) (quotation continues regarding praise of Šulgi).

(see corrected reading in CAD N, s.v. nādu 2 p. 103).

6) [‘A]-nu 'EN-LÍL 'E-A 'be-lit ilāni-MEŠ u '[ ]  
Anu, Enlil, Ea, the lady of the gods and ...

7) ša 'Ašur ina ubšu-ukkin-na-ki itta'idū bēlūssu  
who repeatedly praise the lordship of Aššur in the  
ubšu-ukkin-na

8) iq-bu-u 'Ašur-bani-apla šakkanak 'Ašur ....  
say: "Ashurbanipal, Ashur’s commander, ..." (blessings  
to Ashurbanipal follow).

Langdon, NBK (VAB 4) p. 126. (Nebuchadnezzar)

54) du-kū27 ašar šimāti / šā ub-šū-ukkin-na parak  
ši-ma-a-ti  
Du-ku, the place of destiny, in the Ubšu-ukkin-na, the  
adytum of destiny,

56) šā i-na zag-mu-ku re-eš šá-at-ti / ūmi 8kām ūmi 11kām  
where during the New Year’s festival, from the 8th to  
11th day

58) ilu šar ilāni šāmē erṣētim bēlu ilu / i-ra-am-mu-ū qe-re-eb-šū
the king of the gods of heaven and earth, the lord god dwells,

60) ilāni šū-ut šāmē irṣītim / pa-al-ḥi-ī šū-ta-ak-ku-šū
the gods, those of heaven and earth, respectfully pay him homage

62) ka-am-su iz-za-zu mah-ru-uš-šū / ši-ma-at u₄-um da-īr-ū-tum
kneeling, they are positioned before him; the eternal destiny

64) ši-ma-at ba-la-ti-ya / i-ši-im-mu i-na qe-er-bi
the destiny of my life, they determine there.

Šulgi E J. Klein, U. Mus. manuscript on file. In a section of curses on against a future king who should "erase his [Šulgi’s] songs" (l. 111):

116) a-sa-ga nam-lugal-la-na na-a[n(?)] -x [x]
Let him not [acquire(?)] a good progeny(?) for his kingship!

117) ki-lugal-gub-ki-da[da]-g[a] nam-[b]i-gub-[b]é
Let him not stand on the place, where the king stands (in worship), the pure place!

28 CAD K p. 119 s.v. kamāsu B.

29 Literally "to stand," translating as "to position" to avoid the confusion inherent in kneeling and standing at the same time.
118) [u]b-su-ukkin-na-ta bar-[šè](?) bé-[ ]
Let him be ex[cluded(?)] from the Ubšukkinna!

119) [š]à-ge-guru,-a mu-pà(?)-da-ni(!)[ ]
His(?) wishes and invocations(?),

120) [.............]

Gudea Cylinder A VIII.

13) lugala-<ni>-ir un-gá mu-na-zi mu-na-rá
After he had (thus) censed the master,

he went off to him, hymned him,

14) ub-šu-kin-na-ka mu-na-gub kin, šu mu-na-gál
went in to him in Ubshu‘ukkinna, saluted him (saying):

15) lugal-mu 'nin-gír-su en a-ḫuš-qi,a
"O my master Ningirsu, lord ...."


Enuma Eliš VI has an extensive section of praise to Marduk (declaring the fifty names) while he is seated as the head of the assembly in the ubšu-ukkin-na (see lines 140, 163, 166, cited below). Note also the prebattle celebrations in II 125-7 (also cited below).
D. It is the location where the Anunnaki gods assemble or are seated.

1) Assembly.


3') an-ki-nigín-ba á-ág-gá-bi [   ]
Heaven and earth in their entirety their order ....

4') lugal-la geštú-bád níg-nam x [   ]
... the king [...] wise (and) [knowing] everything [...]

5') inim-kù-du₃₃-ga ama a-a-ugu-b[ī-gi₃₃, igi-bi im-ši-
gál]
[They look at] the holy word [as to th]eir mother and father,

6') 'a-nun-na ub-šu-ukkin-na [   ]
The Anunna in the Ubšu‘ukkina [...]

7') 'en-lîl 'nin-lîl-ra su₃₄-su₃₄-u[b   ]
come³⁰ to Enlil and Ninlil.

8') é-kur eš-mah-šè igi-bi [   ]
[They lo]ok at Ekur, the lofty shrine,

9') á-ág-gá-dugud 'en-lîl 'nin-[lîl ]
The important order [...] Enlil and Nin[lil ...]

---

³⁰ Dr. Sol Cohen prefers "step up" as the translation of the verb here.
**Enuma Eliš**: Heidel, *Babylonian Genesis*.\(^{31}\)

II 125 Convene the assembly and proclaim my lot supreme.

II 126 When ye are joyfully seated together in the ubšu-ukkin-na,

II 127 May I through the utterance of my mouth determine the destinies, instead of you.

III 60-62 (parallel passage to the above).

VI 162 They took counsel together in the ubšu-ukkin-na,

VI 163 "Of the valiant son, our avenger

VI 164 (And) our provider, let us exalt his name!"

VI 165 So they sat down in their assembly to proclaim his destinies,

VI 166 All of them mentioning his name(s) in the holy place(?)

2) Seated. The term used here is ki-tuš or šubtu, which can mean "residence," "dwelling," or "seat." Since we know that the ubšu-ukkin-na was a courtyard occupied by the divine assemblies only at certain times of the year, the nuance of "residence" or "dwelling" is not the best translation. Consequently, the sense of "seat" or "chair" (both physically and as a symbol of authority) seems better (compare *Enuma Eliš* II 126 above).\(^{32}\)

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\(^{31}\) Transliteration of the Akkadian for the lines cited below is given in Chapter 2.

\(^{32}\) Discussions of the range of meanings and synonyms for šubtu are found in *ZA* 41 (1933) p. 292ff [Landsberger]; *ZA* 40 (1931) p. 10-13 [Schott]; and *AS* 22 (1972) p. 142 n. 4 [Wiseman].
The Return of Ninurta to Nippur An Or 52 (1978) Jerrold Cooper. Akkadian/Sumerian bilingual, here addressing Ninurta:

86) “a-nun-na dingir gal-gal-e-ne en-šár-ra nam-mi-in-TAR
   “a-nun-na-ki DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ a-di šá-a-ri i-tar-ru
   Do not paralyze(?) the entire Anunna, the great gods!

87) a-a-zu ki-tuš-a-ni nam-bí-in-ḫu-luḫ-ḫa-me-en
    a-{ba}-ka ina šub-ti-šú la tu-gal-lat
    Do not frighten your father in his seat! ³³

    “MIN ina šub-ti-šú la tu-gal-lat
    Do not frighten Enlil in his seat! ³³

89) “a-nun-na ki-tuš ub-šu-ukkin-na-ke₄ nam-mi-ni-ib-ur₄-ur₄-e-dè
    “a-nun-na-ki ina šu-bat MIN la tu-ra-ar
    Do not panic the Anunna in their seats ³³ at the
    Ubšu’ukkina!

90) a-a-zu á nam-ur-sag-gá-zu níg ḫa-ra-ba-ba-e
    a-ba-ka a-na i-di qar-ra-du-ti-ka qiš-ta li-qiš-ka
    Let, rather, your father give you gifts because of your
    valorous strength!

---

³³ Cooper translates as "residence." šubtu can refer to a dwelling, residence, or to a seat, pedestal, depending on the context (cf. AHw p. 1257f, s.v. šubtu).
91)  'en-lil-lá á nam-ur-sag-gá-zu níg ḫa-ra-ba-ba-e

MIN a-na i-di qar-{ra}-du-ti-ka qiš-ta li qiš-ka

Let Enlil give you gifts because of your valorous strength!

Note: Line 89 is absent in the OB text.

Nippur Lament (ms. Green at U. Mus.)

16) nibru-ki šà-ba me ḫal-ḫal-{a}

O Nippur, in its inner city, that used to apportion the me's,

17) un sag-gi₄₄-ga numun-zi ḫb-i-i-a

Where the black-headed people used to bring forth the good seed,

18) urú šà-bi umuš ba-ra-pà-da

The inner city, where counsel was given,

19) 'a-nun-na-ke₄-ne na ba-an-de₅₂-ge-eš-ām

where the Anunnaki themselves gave instruction,

20) ub-šu-ukkin-na ki di-gal ku₅₅-ru

In the ubšu-ukkin-na, the place that decides the law,

21) eš-bar-re si sá-e ba-ra-an-zu-uš-a

where they, by their decisions, made known justice,

22) dingir-bé-ne ki-tuš-bi ba-mar-ra

where the gods themselves had established their (governing) seats³⁴

---

³⁴ Green translates as "had founded their dwelling place."
23) kurum₄ u₄-bi im-šub-ba bará-bi im-ri-a

its provisions are forgotten, its offerings neglected

E. The purpose of this assembly is to hear the divine decrees.

Miscellaneous Sumerian Hymns ZA 63 (1973) p. 20 Sjöberg,
following Cooper’s collation from An Or 52, p. 116 for lines 12’-14’:

10’) "nuska (4PA.TÛG) nun na-RI-é-kur-ra za-e ši-bi-in-
ga-me-en-nam

Nuska, you are indeed the prince and the counselor of the Ekur,

11’) an-ki-šü-a kur-{nigin}-na-ba dili-zu i-maḫ-me-en

in the entire extent of heaven and earth, in the whole ...

... you alone are mighty,

12’) ub-šu-ukkin-na ki di ĝal ku₄-ru á-ág-gá ĝal-gal-la-šè

in the Ubšu’ukkina, where great judgments are rendered,

for (hearing) the great commands

13’) "a-nun-na dingir ki a-na me-a gu ma-ra-si-si-dè-eš

the Anuna, the gods of the earth, as many as there are,

gather before you,

14’) eš-bar du₁₁-ga u₄(GIŠGAL)-ru "en-lil-lá za-e {si}

mu-ne-ri-ib-{sá}-en

And you administer\(^{35}\) over them the overwhelming\(^{36}\)

\(^{35}\) si...sá = "to put in order, make straight, prepare"

(cf. Marie-Louise Thomsen, The Sumerian Language: An
Introduction to its History and Grammatical Structure
decisions uttered by Enlil.

15') KA-ḫu an-ḫi, šu nu-te-ga-zu-šē igi-bi šu mu-e-ši-gāl
They gaze at your holy mouth(?), unapproachable like heaven,

16') [x]-mah ni-gūru ki-ūs-a-bi nam-bi igi-bi ib-ūz-zu-un
Their lofty [...], full of awe, firmly founded,
(there?) you make known their destiny.

It is very critical to note that this is not a peer meeting for a consensus or vote-gathering review, but more of a staff briefing or informative update.

Šulgi F J. Klein, U. Mus. manuscript on file.

30) u₄-ba an-ňe ki-en-gi-ra nam bi-in-tar₄ kalam-e ğu
ba-(an)-dè
At that time, An determined the fate in Sumer, (and)
called to the land;

31) ʻaš-im-babar-re unken-ňé ḫuł-{la ba}-ta-an-è

(Copenhagen, 1984: Akademisk Forlag), p. 270). CAD translates the Akkadian cognate verb šutēšuru (s.v. ešēru) as "to rule over," "to administer justice," "to give correct decisions." Note especially the citations: Šurpu II 131 Šamaš bēl elāti u šสภาพ ti ... muštēšir ilî šar mātāti attama = you are Šamaš, the lord of the upper and nether worlds, who rules over [so CAD] (all) the gods, the king of (all) the lands. AKA 27 1 1 (Tigl. I) ʻAššur bēl u šwartāt šar mātāti attama = you are Šamaš, the lord of the upper and nether worlds, who rules over [all the gods. KAR 55:9 Šamaš dajan šamē u eršeti muštēširu Iqīgī = Šamaš, the judge of heaven and earth, who administers justice over the Iqīgī. Cooper renders the verb here as expound, but in Enki’s Journey 1. 119, he translates si...sā as "to administer justice."

36 u₄-ru = "grandiose," "colossal," "stupendous." Cooper renders as "lofty."
Ašimbabbar brought out (the word) to the (divine?) assembly in joy,

32) me-a ki-{gi}-LI ba-[ ]-UL -x[ ]

(Content of speech follows in broken context)

This text does not explicitly mention the ubšu-ukkin-na, but shows the same informative purpose for a divine assembly.

Enuma Eliš: Heidel, Babylonian Genesis.

III 129 They gathered together and departed,
III 130 All the great gods who determine [the destinies].
III 131 They entered into the presence of Anshar and filled [the ubšu-ukkin-na] . . . .
III 138 For Marduk, their avenger, they decreed the destiny.

Incantation to Utu, Oriens Antiquus 8 (1969), G. R. Castellino (see U. Mus. manuscript). In a list of epithets:

9) "utu giš-nu₃-gal kalam-ša-ta-ē-a
   Utu, beacon showing forth out of the inner land,

10) "utu dingir-šár-ra gal-za dingir na-me nu-da-ad-g[i]
   Utu, god of the universe, intelligent, (to whom) no god (can) give ad[vice],

---

37 So translated by Klein. Given the parallelism with kalam in the previous line, it is possible that the human population of Sumer is in view rather than a formal divine assembly.
11) **ub-su-kin-na-ke₄ sag-di-ku₃-bi-me-en**

In the *ubšu-ukkin-na* you are its first judge.

**AfO Bei 9**, Esarhaddon Inscriptions, episode 41, p. 28, l. 39-40:

*ina Ub-šu-ukkin-na-ki / ki-sal puḫur ilānī₃₃ šu-bat ši-tul-ti ...*

In the *Ubšu-ukkin-na*, the courtyard of the assembly of the gods, the place of conferring, (curse follows)

**Labartu-text, ZA 16** (1902) p. 158, l. 17:

*Ub-šū-kin-na₄ šū-bat ši-tul-ti ilānī rabūti ša qī-ri₇ E-kur*

(Oath sworn by other gods, and finally by the) *Ubšu-ukkin-na*, the place of discussion of the great gods, in the midst of Ekur ...

Note the apparent tension: some passages show the lesser gods assembling passively to *hear* decrees, while others show them *administering* justice, or having a role in the *discussions* that "determine destiny." However, note that high praise to the head of the *ubšu-ukkin-na* lauds him as a leader who needs no advice. As a consequence we most likely have a royal court pictured here, where officials hear and may freely give advise, but they then administer in accordance with the decrees of the king. An administrative body that follows the wishes of its leader or king "who needs not advice" but may wish to explore possible options and graciously seek a consensus rather than rule by *fiat* is
hardly democratic! In light of these texts, we should probably consider many of the Enuma Eliš council scenes to be illustrative of an ubšu-ukkin-na or other governing assembly in the rare case when it appoints a new leader. The more normative situation appears in Enuma Eliš once Marduk is seated as head of the assembly -- the Anunnaki simply follow his decrees and praise him for his wisdom.

F. Dining and refreshment were part of the assembly.

Enki's journey to Nippur (thesis, Al-Fouadi; 1969), lines 118-9 collated by Cooper, An Or 52 p. 116:

104) ‘en-ki-ke₄ èš-e-nibr₄ₑ₄-₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄₄¢

38 An example of fiat rule is seen in the Sumerian deluge myth lines 144-5 where "An, Enlil, Enki (and) Ninhursag / Adjured the gods of heaven (and) earth by An (and) Enlil." Kramer notes in An St 33 (1983) p. 119 fn. 25: "Presumably the four leading deities of the pantheon made the other gods of heaven and earth swear that they would abide by the cruel decision [to destroy mankind with a flood] whether they liked it or not."
109) "a-nun-na ki-úš-ki-úš-bi im-mi-in-dúr-ru-ne-eš
    the Anunna seated themselves.
110) lú-e-ne kaš i-na₂-na₃-ne ƙas'kurún im-du₄-ge-ne
    (Then) the (divine waiters) gave them beer to drink (as
    well as) the fine beer which they have sweetened ....
111-115) (further description of banquet service)
116) "en-líl nibru²-a ḫúl-la mu-ni-ib-túm
    In Nippur they made Enlil happy,
117) "en-líl-e "a-nun-na-ke₄-ne gù mu-na-dé-e
    (Then) Enlil speaks to the Anunnaki:
118) dingir gal-gal(-la) i-su₄-ge-(en/ez-)za-na
    "You great gods who have stepped up here,³⁹
119) "a-nun-na ub-šu-ukkin-na-ka/ke₄ si mu-un-sá-sá-e-en-
    za-na
    You Anunna who administer justice in Ubšu-ukkina.⁴⁰
120) dumu-mu é mu-un-dù lugal "en-ki-ke₄
    My son has built a house, the king Enki,

Nippur Lament (ms. Green at U. Mus.; see Sumerian in earlier
citation).
16: O Nippur, in its inner city, that used to apportion
    the Me’s,
17: Where the blackheaded people used to bring forth
    the good seed,

³⁹ Cooper renders this line as "you gods who are
    present." Note that in the context all of the gods are
    seated at banquet and are no longer standing.

⁴⁰ Al-Fouadi translates literally as "You Anunna who
    came straight to the ubšu-ukkin-na."
18: The inner city, where counsel was given,
19: where the Anunnaki themselves gave instruction,
20: In the *ubšu-ukkin-na*, the place that decides the law,
21: where they, by their decisions, made known justice,
22: where the gods themselves had established their (governing) seats\(^{41}\)
23: Its provisions are forgotten, its offerings neglected
24: In the holy room of Royalty and the great dining hall of the feast,
25: For which the pouring out of wine and honey had been decreed!


III 129 They gathered together and departed,
III 130 All the great gods who determine [the destinies].
III 131 They entered into the presence of Anshar and filled [the *ubšu-ukkin-na*];
III 132 They kissed one another [as they came together] in the assembly;
III 133 They conversed (and) [sat down] to a banquet.
III 134 They ate bread (and) prepared w[ine].
III 135 The sweet wine dispelled their fears;

\(^{41}\) Green translates as "had founded their dwelling place."
III 136 [Their] bod[ies] swelled as they drank the strong drink.

III 137 Exceedingly carefree were they, their spirit was exalted,

III 138 For Marduk, their avenger, they decreed the destiny.

G. Summary.

a) The ubšu-ukkin-na is located in an outer courtyard of a temple complex, and in later periods (at least) it was elaborately decorated.

b) This courtyard is apparently not the main central one (the kisalmahḫu), but a smaller one located more closely to the outer perimeter wall and an outer gate of the temple.

c) The location is considered a holy place.

d) The gods assembled in the ubšu-ukkin-na on special days in order to praise the ruling gods and to "decree destinies."

e) The proceedings have few democratic features: while termed a "place of discussion" because opinions could be freely given, usually the lesser gods came passively to hear and then administer the decrees of the higher god(s).

f) Although this is an argument from silence, it is significant that no human group meets in the ubšu-ukkin-na.42 In general it appears that only the king or ensi of

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42 At least as far as published texts accessible to the author are concerned. At the 35th Rencontre d'Assyriologie, July 14, 1988, held at the University of Pennsylvania
the city, like the lesser deities, may petition the ruling gods at this location on special occasions.

g) Subtle clues about the protocol of the ubāu-ukkin-na can be gleaned from the descriptions: The gods are seated, the presiding deity sits on a special throne, while the rare human visitor (the king) stands.43

h) Banquets were a common feature of the divine assembly.44

Museum, Philadelphia, PA, Stephen J. Lieberman gave a talk in which he distributed his reading of a fragment from a Manual of Sumerian Legal Forms (given in full under Sumerian Sources 1.2.4 with Sol Cohen's reading). Lieberman reads the text as "Išme-Dagan the king ordered the assembly of Nippur and its judges to gather in the ubāu-ukkin-na." I was able to obtain no further information about this text as of the date of this thesis. It was since published in the Rencontre proceedings Nippur at the Centennial, edited by Maria deJong Ellis (Philadelphia, 1992), p. 127ff.

43 Cf. Sulgi E 1. 117. From Ugaritic texts, it appears that messengers arriving at an assembly stood to deliver their message as an act of defiance (Baal epic, p. 86, contrast p. 91, in Stories from Ancient Canaan, edited and translated by Michael D. Coogan). Presumably the king’s posture does not imply malice.

44 Lieberman concurs with this conclusion (p. 133). Although he reads a fragmentary line from MSL 11 (see 1.5.19) as "(the) assembly’s eating-place" (p. 136 in Nippur: City of Decision in Nippur at the Centennial, ed. Maria deJong Ellis (1992)), this line provides no context to tell us if a divine or human assembly is eating.
Chapter 7.
Non-Administrative Temple Assemblies

Because of its status as the "house of the god," the temple, particularly its courtyards (kisallu), were the scene of serious legal assemblies where it was necessary to establish the truth of a claim under an oath before the god.

Secular cases were not the only issues handled in the temple courts and courtyards, as occasional examples attest. In CT 6 7a:8, 35, a Šamaš priest claims his portion of the inheritance of his father. The total goods are gathered in the courtyard of Šamaš, and there each brother(?) takes an equal share. In another case, the šangu and the pašišu priests assemble in the courtyard of Šamaš to witness a transaction involving the gift of a slave to the Šamaš temple. Of course, other texts mention the action of a legal assembly on the temple premises, without giving the

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1 Other texts refer to the bāb (gate), the mušlāl (gatehouse), or simply to the bit (temple) as places where judgments are rendered.

2 Note especially YOS 12 212:14, where witnesses establish a debt "in the court of Ištar." Other examples of oath-taking in a more general temple context are: BE 6/1 26:7; CT 4 1:21f; Rifton 46:24 (see ZA 43 315). The verb often associated with these cases is burru (CAD B s.v. barû, p. 128) "to establish under oath."

3 Text 297 in Moses Schorr, Urkunden des Altbabylonischen Zivil- und Prozessrechts (1913).

4 Boyer Contribution p. 25, no. 107:11.

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specific location. In certain political situations it also appears that the temple personnel would assemble to confer and offer advice to their leaders.

An interesting OB tablet (TCL 11 245:5) documents a trial regarding the theft of garments from a god:

"Concerning the heavy cloak and headdress with which DN was clothed, but of which she was stripped, the pašišu-priests, city governor (rabiānu), and elders assembled in the courtyard (kisallu) of 'NIN.MAR.KI.' It is noteworthy that this temple robbery was serious enough to involve the royally-appointed governor as well as the city elders.

Unless they were involved in a trial as a witness or judge, we have little evidence that the temple courts were accessible to the "man on the street." Late ritual texts do not convey the idea that throngs of enthusiastic worshippers surged through the temple courts; instead it appears that the gods went out to the people during festival processions.

5 NBk 104.6.0 refers to an "assembly of the elders (šibūtu) of Šamaš" who serve as witnesses in a legal dispute.

6 Adele Berlin, *Emmerkar and Ensuhkešdanna: A Sumerian Narrative Poem* (Philadelphia: The University Museum, 1979), lines 117ff. Here Ensuhkešdanna, who is apparently an en priest, calls together the temple personnel to ask for advice in responding to Enmerkar’s challenge. This meeting is located in the giparu, the residence of the en priest.

7 The thief was convicted. For translation of difficult phrases see CAD s.v. hamāšu, bāru A 3a, p. 128.

Like the king's palace, the house of the god was a private place where one entered by invitation only. A noteworthy exception to this appears to be the "open house" which Esarhaddon held in the Ešarra temple of Aššur after he refurbished it: "For 3 days I celebrated a feast with my officials and the people of my country in the courtyard of Ešarra."

Few texts come down to us which illustrate how the common man relates to the city temple. One of these, "A Man and his God" survives in only fragmentary form. Our discussion follows the manuscript of J. Klein in the University of Pennsylvania Museum files, with notes and comments by A. Sjöberg:

113) dingir-mu x x nam-tag-mu igi-mu û-mi-zu
    My god, x x you have let me recognize my sins,
114) ká-unḫin-ka ḫa-lam-ma-bi dil-bad-bi ga-ȃm-du,11
    I shall recount in the gate of the assembly(?) those of them that have been forgotten, and those of them which are visible(?)

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11 In fact, the western notion of "everyman" may be a non sequitur in Mesopotamian society. If the culture is highly stratified and even the middle class is fractured into guilds, the societal picture may be more like the caste system of India. If the major temples both represent and protect the king and the state, there would be little inclination to open the temple doors to crowds of peasants.

12 Published by Kramer in ANET, p. 589f. Primary sources are STVC 1, 2. Supplement to VT 3 (1960) pp. 172-82. Bi. Or. 17 pp. 149ff.
115) guruš-me-en ka-tar nam-tag-mu igi-zu-šè ga-si-il

I, the young man, shall publicly declare my sins before you!

116) unkin-e ú-ku IM.DUGUD-gim ḫu-mu-ub-šèg-šèg-e

In the assembly, let tears(!? ) flow, like a heavy downpour (of rain)! Sjöberg card note: "Text F has SA, ALAN instead of úʔ-KU (in text G)."

117) é-zu ama-ša-ne-ša₄-mu ĳr-mu ḫé-šiš₄-x [ ]

In(!) your house, let my praying mother continuously weep(?) for me!

While there is much that is obscure in this text due to its damaged condition, it appears that the young man (who is suffering under the hand of his god) goes to declare his sins publicly in some assembly associated with the temple of the god.

A sacred marriage hymn for Iddin-Dagan (around 1960 B.C.) gives another glimpse of possible "common man" involvement in divine ritual and worship. The ninth kirugu reads: ¹³

167) é-gal é-na-ri-kalam-ma-ka šišrab-kur-kur-ra-kam

In the palace, "the house of counsel for the land," "the shackle of all the foreign lands,"

168) é-d₄-i₄-lù-ru-gù sag-ɡi₄-ga ukù gú-diɣi (var. šub) -ba

When the black-headed people, the people, have assembled¹⁴ in "the house of the river of ordeal,"


¹⁴ Sol Cohen notes that the verb gú-diɣi is nalu or napharu. The variant gú-šub-ba = aḫu naḍu "to cast the hands down, to stop working, restraint of work." He sees no reference to puḫrum here, and he renders the line: "On the house of the river ordeal, the black-headed people, the
They set up a throne for the lady of the palace.

The king, the god, sits with her, inside .... [They set up a bed for Inanna and the king for the sacred marriage, which takes place on New Year’s day. Afterwards]

He (the king) orders them (the people) to enter her Egalmah ....

He arranges abundance, lushness, and plenty before her.

He places a pleasant meal before her.

He arranges the black-headed people before her.

The loud instrument, which drowns out the south storm,

The algar instrument of sweet sound, the ornament of the palace,

The stringed instrument, the source of the joy of mankind,

(With these) the musicians play her a song which rejoices her heart ....

The palace is festive, the king is joyous,

people in their entirety set up a throne-chamber to the "Lady of the Palace."
211) ukû-e nam-ḥé-a  ủng-zi-al-e-de

The people spend the day in plenty ....

The sacred marriage appears to involve drama and festivities in both the royal palace and the Inanna temple, and from our text it is difficult to establish where the varied activities take place. Following the marriage ceremony, it appears that the king gathers the common people before Inanna and himself inside the temple Egalmah for a great banquet, in which the people also participate (cf. line 211, "spend the day in plenty"). However, the preparations before the marriage ceremony, in which the common people also have a role, appear to take place in the royal palace (cf. lines 167-169).

As noted above, the lack of textual references leads us to deduce that the house of the god, like a king’s palace, was a private place where one entered by invitation only. Solely during special festivals or celebrations could the "common man" dare to encroach on the sacred area.

Turning from textual to archaeological evidence, some helpful insights into the relationship between overall temple structure and its courtyards is offered by Henri Frankfort in the concluding chapter of OIP 58: ¹⁵

These [early] courts themselves are generally very irregular in shape. A glance through the successive plans of the Sin and Abu temples from their foundation in the Proto-literate period

¹⁵ Penhas Delougaz and Seton Lloyd, Pre-Sargonid Temples in the Diyala Region (OIP 58 1942).
shows clearly that these courts were originally adjacent open spaces where certain work connected with the temple took place and where priests and people congregated. These open spaces were subsequently incorporated in the temple complex, which retained the curiously polygonal shape determined by the limits of neighboring plots or buildings. [p. 304]

But the court is not, as Koldewey suggested, the remnant of an increasingly built-up inclosed area. We can notice in the successive stages of the Sin Temple how the court, far from being a central feature, is only at length incorporated in the temple complex. In the early temples at Tepe Gawra and Warka it does not occur. [p. 311 n. 23]

Frankfort's observation that the earliest courtyards were open areas adjacent to the temple and not secluded, hallowed sections within the temple itself reminds us that we need to be cautious before deducing that an assembly of citizens convened in a temple courtyard implies that the public had access to the actual temple. Due to space constraints some temple courtyards may have served as public areas where both temple and secular business was conducted.

Moreover, the haphazard topography of temple courtyards and their incidental nature in early temple architecture implies that courtyard activities (such as the early hypothetical congregational worship alluded to above), did not play a central role in the early cult. If it had, the architectural feature associated with this activity would have been standardized and stereotyped in temple structure, as were altars, niches, and cela shape and entrances.
Chapter 8.
Conclusions.

I. Divine assemblies. Because divine assemblies are commonly associated with temple precincts, we reviewed the primary source material for hints about its place of meeting, protocol, and how humans related to it. We observed that the most common assembly meeting place was the ubšu-ukkin-na, a decorated courtyard with seats for the gods into which only the highest civic leader could enter to make petitions. Protocol was more difficult to establish, especially the suggestion that they were democratic. In the epics we see strong leadership exhibited (from An, Enlil or Marduk), with decisions being affirmed by oath after a consensus is reached or a leader issues a decree. To distinguish a democratic from a royal-court protocol would require the attestation of a very controversial situation in which the gods were split 60-40 on an issue but the majority position was then adopted by all. The existing texts illustrate the situation where only one god opposes the actions of the body (Enki in Atra-Hasis; Inanna in Lam. Ur). Without a clear example of majority rule, I suggest that Mullen’s view, that Canaanite and Early Hebrew divine assemblies picture a royal court rather than a primitive democracy,⁠¹ be extended to the Mesopotamian assembly as well. Edzard summaries the situation well:

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¹ Mullen, Assembly, p. 282-3.
In the past two decades the question has arisen, with regard to the Sumerian city-state of Early Dynastic times, to what degree the people participated in its government. The point of departure for the whole discussion was the occurrence of terms for "assembly" and for "elders," principally in a passage of the Sumerian poem *Gilgamesh and Aka of Kish*. Messengers from the king of Kish appear in Uruk, and Gilgamesh, the *en*, submits the alternatives of war or dishonorable subjection, first to an "assembly of the elders" and second to an "assembly of the young men (*gurush)*." The old urge surrender, the young are eager for the fight. Attempts have been made to see in this a kind of plebiscite. But it is probably a literary convention for displaying the *hubris* of a king. That such assemblies did exist is something that we should not doubt; that they were a prototype of popular democracy, however, is something that we must not imagine. If the gods meet in mythological assembly, this is surely an earthly institution translated, by the religious imagination, to the realm of heaven. But what is the procedure in the assembly of the gods? It is customary, it appears, to acclaim the proposals of the presiding deity (who, of course, will have tried to give expression to the opinion of the majority) with a resounding shout of "So be it!" If this, too, reflects the ways of men, then the Sumerian assembly is a sounding board for public opinion. The purpose of the assembly would have been, above all, to air questions of organization and justice and to receive the directions of the ruler.²

Further, we noted that the divine assembly motif does not appear in the earliest attestations of several significant texts of differing genres, which seriously weakens the motif's conjectured ability to reflect accurately prehistorical human assembly protocols.

II. Human temple assemblies. The majority of surviving references to human groups meeting on the temple precinct involve legal disputes (oath-taking and cases involving temple material or personnel) and administrative functions (the kiništu governing board).

III. Worship and cult activities. From the lack of evidence, it appears that the public had very limited access to the temple and involvement in its ceremonies: The surviving cases attested to us are Iddin-Dagan's sacred marriage rites, where the general public join in the celebration; and Esarhaddon's open house to display his majesty and care for the gods. A Man and his God, in which a penitent declares his sins and mourns in "the gate of the [assembly?]," gives evidence to a personal dimension of devotion but does not provide enough details about the scheduling and location of the possible gathering and whether a major city-temple or small shrine is involved.

IV. Other observations. As the bulk of this research consisted of contextual word-studies, several valuable miscellaneous points were deduced during this study:

A) The reading of puḫrum as "law court" is suspect in what has been considered to be a classic proof text illustrating that legal assemblies were open to the public.

3 "black-headed people" is a poetic expression for mankind as a whole, cf. CAD and ABw s.v. šalmāt qaqqadi.
Context and unruly connotations for puḫrum elsewhere imply that this passage in Counsels of Wisdom is better read as a crowd gathered around a street fight; hence the warning does not apply to any formal judicial assembly.

B) The definition of kiništu offered in the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary was clarified and corrected -- among the range of meanings for the term that can be deduced from context, a "class of priests of a low status (concerned with the preparation of food offerings)" does not appear to fit.

C) After accounting for cultural conditions in Mesopotamia in the late Persian periods, we concluded that a series of texts which Weinfeld proposed to illustrate a connection between the kiništu and keneset/synagogue traditions does not have a direct bearing on the issue.

D) In an appendix to this study, we propose that the Eginaptu = šutummu (holy place = storehouse) enigma be resolved by translating šutummu/Eginaptu as repository or treasury.

E) In several Sumerian texts the term kalam (land) occurs in parallel with unken (assembly) where it is clear that unken is being used as a generic term for mankind (i.e., gathered people) but where no formal gathering can be inferred from the context.

As in any scholarly investigation, the data available on a given issue do not allow one to answer the full range of questions that can be addressed to it. If we find that,
instead of yielding a clear answer, the data only permit us to limit our options, with this we should rest content. It is better research to be circumspect than to read a preference into fragmentary data.
Appendix A

The ramkūtu.

Since two important texts (YOS 1 45; CT 36 9) use the term ramkūtu in parallel with kiništu (YOS 1 45 uses these terms to mark the beginning and end of a list of personnel; CT 36 9 uses kiništu as an explanatory or parallel term for ramkūtu), a brief study of the range of occurrences of this word may prove helpful in elucidating the meaning of kiništu.

Ramkūtu can be analyzed as either the masculine plural\(^1\) or the feminine abstract\(^2\) of the substantive adjective ramku, which is derived from the verb ramāku, "to wash oneself, to bathe." The idea of a "washed one" (static) or "washer" (active) makes obvious sense in a temple context where all priests, personnel and worshippers need to be both physically and morally clean before they can stand in the presence of the god. The issue which needs to be resolved is whether the term ramku refers to a specific type or class of priest, or if it is a more generic term for temple personnel, like ērib bīti.

1) Texts which infer that ramku is a specific class of priests.

Borger, Esarhaddon Inscriptions Episode 33, p. 24:

\[
\begin{align*}
20) & \text{ra-am-ki pa-ši-ši} & (21) & \text{AN.GUB.BA.MEŠ maḥ-ru-te}
\end{align*}
\]

\(^1\) Reimschneider, section 3.1.

\(^2\) ibid., section 4.9.
22) na-ṣir pi-riš-te (23) ma-ḥar-šū-nu uš-ziz
24) ʾi-šip-pi ʾašipī (25) ʾašē ʾašē
26) šá gi-mir um-ma-nu-tú (27) ḫa-am-mu uš-ziz
28) ma-ḥar-šu-un
"I placed at their (Marduk's and Šarpānītu's) service
the former ramki, pašiši, angubbû (ecstatics) priests,
those initiated in secret rites. I assigned to them
purification priests, exorcists, lamentation-priests
and temple singers who are versed in every aspect of
(their) art."

This tablet appears to list two broad categories of
priests, one specialized in secret rituals and the other
involved in functions that were presumably less mysterious
(at least in that era). As ramku occurs in the list, it
appears to refer to a class of priest, like the other terms
are classes of priests.

Šurpu V 175 (AfO Bei 11); JNES 19, 33, 52; 15, 138, 111.
These incantation formulae all use the phraseology ra-am-ku
kù šá ʾē-a DUMU šip-ri šá ʾAsal-lú-ḫi a-na-ku -- "I
am the pure ramku of Ea, the messenger of Marduk."

Iraq 31 p. 87 (Marduk prayer BMS 11)
46: ram-ku šá qāṭāʾ-šū eb-b[a ...]
The ramku whose hands are pure ....

21 A second time [I saw a dream,]
And in [my night dream which] I [saw]

A remarkable ramku [ ]

Holding in his hand a tamarisk rod of purification --

"Laluralimma, resident of Nippur,

Has sent me to cleanse you."

The water he was carrying he threw over me,

Pronounced the life-giving incantation, and rubbed [my body]

This passage gives some details of a rite performed by a ramku.

Utukki Limnūti tablet III from R.C. Thompson, Devils and Evil Spirits of Babylonian I (London, 1903). p. 15 (bilingual)

I am the šangammāhu of Ea,

NAG-DUP ra-am-ku ša a-Eridi a-na-ku

I am the ramku of Eridu ... (rest of text broken)

Sargon II cylinder (H. Winckler, Der Keilschrifttexte Sargons I, pl. 36, no. 76:158 [page 128]) See CAD s.v. nindanu 2.

The servants of the gods, priests and dignitaries,

those well-versed in their knowledge, initiated in the secret rites ...
In all of the above contexts, *ramku* or the plural form *ramkū* (accusative *ramkī*) appear to refer to a specialized priest who carries out purification rites.

2) Texts in which *ramkūtum* refers to the priestly class.

Occurrences of the adjective plural (or feminine abstract) form *ramkūtu* are comparatively rare:

**UET I** 187 (Nabonidus brick) p. 57.

6) *ra-am-ku-ut e-giš-šir-gal* 7) *ki-di-nu-ut-su-nu ak-ṣur-ma*

The priests of Egiširgal, I confirmed their immunity

8) *šu-ba-ra-šu-un aš-ku-un*

and appointed their sustenance.

In this context it appears that Nabonidus has chosen one term to designate all of the priesthood of the temple, whom he calls "the washed ones."

**OECT I** (W-B 5, Nabonidus cylinder)

I 51) *ra-am-ku-tim Ė-bār-ra i-ta-mu-nim*

The (*ramku*)-priests of Ebarra spoke:

52) "The temple has fallen into ruins."

(Nabonidus does not believe them but sends a delegation of wise men to investigate the temple independently -- he is fearful of the gods' wrath because he needs to desecrate the temple in order to rebuild it).

Again in this context it is doubtful that only one class of priests of the Ebarra temple is in view; more probably a delegation of priests was sent to the king, which
would have included a variety of specialists.

Summary:

From the few examples which we have available, it appears that ramku and ramkūtu designate two different groups of people: The ramku are a specialized class of purification-priest, while ramkūtu is a generalized term referring to temple priests or personnel as a whole. This distinction is maintained by the use of the plural ramkū when referring to a group of the specialized priests.

It is not uncommon for nouns to have different shades of meaning in their variant plural forms: Reimschneider notes that the noun šibu "old," "venerable" forms a substantive plural šibušibu "witnesses", and a plural adjective šibūtu "elders" which are not equivalent.³

While the -ūtu abstract form is often used with priestly class nouns to designate the craft or prebend of that class (cf. išippu, išippūtu; āšipu, āšipūtu, etc.), in this case it functions to form an abstracted class-noun designating the entire range of "washed" temple personnel. With the case of ramkūtu, the context clearly differentiates whether personnel or the craft is in view.⁴

³ section 3.1.

⁴ The occurrences of ramkūtu as a craft cited by ABW are in an isolated context (the god list An = ša-nu-um, CT 24 41 1. 64 and CT 25 11 1. 29: Tišpak = Ninurta = ša ra-am-ku-ti), where either meaning could be justified.
Appendix B

The Sumerian É (or bit) gi-na-ab-tum

Following the exegetical rule that "context is more important than any single word," we will attempt to deduce the meaning of the term from its occurrences in passages where it is used in parallelism with a better known phrase.

Royal inscriptions that deal with enhancements made to temples occasionally refer to this structure: UET I 139, listed as R̄imsīn inscription 11 in Studia Orientalia 49 (1980), p. 155-6 reads as part of a series of epithets to R̄imsīn:

26) é-gi-na-ab-tum-/du,(́)-kù-₄nanna
   the pure é-gi-na-ab-tum of Nanna,

27) ki-tuš-ni-ðùb-bu-/ðùb(=DUB)-da-ni
   her dwelling-place where she may rest,

28) nam-ti-la-ni-šè
   for his life

29) mu-na-ðù
   he built.

Note the adjective kù ("pure", "sacred", "holy"), but especially the explanatory clause "her dwelling place where she may rest." The structure is clearly a divine sanctuary.

Temple Hymn 4 in TCS 3, p. 19 is directed to "the house of Nuska in Nibiru" (1. 60), and begins:

48) é me-lám-ḥuš ni-gal gûr-ru
   House with awe-inspiring radiance, laden with splendor,
49) èš-mah me-nun an-ta bar-ra
Lofty shrine (to which) the princely me's have been
sent forth from heaven,

50) é-gi-na-an-du, 'en-lil-lá me-ul-e gar-ra nir-ra
túm-ma
é-gi-na-ab-tum of Enlil, founded for the primeval me's,
worthy of ..., 

51) nam-nun-na sag-íli na-di₅-é-kur-ra
Lifting its 'head' in princeship, counsellor of the
Ekur ... 

Here the structure is equated with a "lofty shrine" and a
"radiant house" and is involved with the divine me (the
"fates" or ordinances decreed by the gods).

Temple Hymn 40 (ibid., p. 47) addresses the house of
Inanna in Ulmaš as follows:

512) é-₄-inanna kù "₃za-gin-na é₅-gi-na-ab-du, guškin dú-a
House of Inanna, of silver and lapis lazuli, é-gi-na-
ab-du, built of gold,

513) nun-zu u₄-rá-bu₅-[m⁵]en nu-u₄-gig-nigín-gar-ra
Your princess (is) an urabu-bird, the nugig of the
nigingar.

In this hymn we find the temple (house) of Inanna used in
parallel with our term, and further it is lavishly

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¹ Sjöberg notes a variant text which has [u₄]-nir in
place of é. This is equivalent to substituting ziqqurratu
for bit, which is an interesting mistake, to say the least.
ornamented. A variant occurrence of "temple tower" (u₆-nir) for "temple/house" (é) also implies that no ordinary "storehouse" is in view in this context.

Yet another text which shows this striking parallelism is U. Penn Museum tablet N 4119, published by Sjöberg as "A Hymn to the Goddess Sadarnuna" in JAOS 93 (1973) pp. 352ff:

4) nir-gal kar-mah 'en-ul 'nin-ul-e èš-maḥ-a túm-ma

The respected (goddess), the great quay, Enul and Ninul have made her suitable for the lofty shrine,

5) munus-zi-dè kisal-'en-lil-là-ka bāra-maḥ-a-na mu-un-ri

The true woman sits on her lofty dais in the courtyard of Enlil,

6) é-gi-na-ab-du,-kù èš-maḥ ki x x gub-bu-na/ní-huš gùr-ru-àm

When she stands in the pure é-gi-na-ab-du, the lofty shrine, the . . . . place, she is full of awe,

It is also interesting to see that the é-gi-na-ab-du, was a popular item for kings to build (or refurbish), and then call attention to this in their year formulae. Moreover, many gods had one. Note the following references:

32: Ishbi-erra, who looks after (?) the Ekur,
33: built the Eginabdu of Enlil.

Sin-māgir 2 (clay nail), from Studia Orientalia 49.
Sin-māgir built for 'Aqtuppītum his beloved Eginabdu.
Gungunum 2 (clay nail, Ur), ibid.

Gungunum built for Dagan the Eešmedagal and his Eginabdu.

Gungunum 3 (clay nail, Ur), ibid.

Gungunum built for Utu his é-ḥi-li and his pure Eginabdu.

Gungunum 25 (clay nail of Enannatum, Ur), VAB I p. 206-7; cf. UET I 232.

Gungunum built for Nannar a sacred é-gi-na-ab-tum.²

Sumuel 1 (clay nail, Ur), Studia Orientalia 49 and UET I 114.

Sumuel built for Inanna the pure Eginabdu, her beloved house (é-ki-āg-a-ni), in Ur.

Ibbi-Sin year 18: (U. Penn tablet, isolated context), UET I 197.

mu 'i-bi-'suen lugal-uri²'-ma-ke, 'nin-lil ù 'inanna é-gi-na-ab-tum kù mu-ne-dù.

Year that Ibbi-Sin, king of Ur, built the pure Eginabdu’s of Ninlil and Inanna.

UET I 265, 1. 22: Year when the é-gi-na-ab-tum was built in Ur.

Apparently the constructing of an Eginabdu for a god was considered to be a significant event in a king’s reign.

Once again we see the epithets "beloved" and "pure" applied

² Matouš (Ar Or 20 [1952] p. 304) comments that Woolley found this building during his excavations at Ur, located on the northwest side of the Nannar courtyard. Woolley’s own summary in Ur Excavations 5. The Ziggurat and its Surroundings, p. 86f [cited by Matouš] is not as explicit.
to the structure.

Summary.

The ́gi-na-ab-du, occurs in temple hymns as a synonym for ersive (shrine), with the epithets "beloved" or "pure". It is ornamented in gold and considered to be a "place of rest" for the god. Many gods had them, and it was an important event when a king built or refurbished one. On the basis of these texts it appears that this structure was an important component of a temple complex, perhaps even the cella in which the god's statue was placed.

Problems.

Complicating our analysis of ́GI.NA.AB.DU, is the fact that it is a synonym of the Akkadian term ́utummu, which is often translated as "granary, storehouse." This equivalence is demonstrated in lexical text UMBS V 106 rev. IV 21 (Diri V 288):

\[\text{[šu]-tu-um} = \text{́GI.NA.AB.DU}, = \text{šu-tu-um-mu}\]

3 It is worth noting at this point how the root knp appears in other cognate languages. While not found in Akkadian (other than in the derived noun kappu = "wing"), the root is attested in Aramaic and Arabic (BDB p. 489). The Aramaic root knp means "to press, crowd; to gather" s.v. Marcus Jastrow, A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the midrashic literature (New York: Choreb, 1926) vol. I p. 651. The Arabic root knf means "to guard, fence in" s.v. Hans Wehr, A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic (Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services, 1976), third edition edited by J. Milton Cowan. The Arabic cognate appears to follow the sense of a protected depository; the Aramaic preserves the more generic idea of gathering.
Note also CT 46 pl. 48 no. 51 obv. I 28' where the reading É.GI₆. NA.AB.DU, has the gloss šu-tu-um.

Moreover, the term šutummu is used in temple contexts where we would expect to find É gi-na-ab-tum used:

   a-ḫu-lap-ki be-let É-an-na qud-du-šú šu-tûm-mu el-lu
   Have mercy, Lady of holy Eanna, the pure warehouse,

2) Gilgamesh I i 10: É-an-na šu-tûm-mu el-lu
   of hallowed Eanna, the pure sanctuary (so ANET p. 73).

3) Thureau-Dangin, Rituel Acc. 92 a 11:
   (list of gods) ina šu-tûm-mu ša kisalli An-tum
   uṣṣa-ab
   (the gods) are seated in the sanctuary of the courtyard
   of Antum

4) CT 21 pl. 6 (90826), a gate-socket inscription published
   in VAB I p. 188 l, commemorates the fact that Ur-Nammu
   built an é-šu-tûm ki-ág-gâ-ni for Ninlil (line 7).

In secular contexts we find the šutummu being used to store
grain, dates, copper, and tribute/booty. Kings, ships, and
city gates have (é) šutummu.⁴ As a result, we need to

⁴ For occurrences of É-šu-tûm as "granary" in Ur III
texts, (often in connection with the sá-du, offering) note
BIN 5, 48 rev. 7 and 152:3; Contenau Contribution no. 47:2-
3; RA 8 p. 156, AO 5648:2ff; Orientalia 47-49 no. 161 rev.
and no. 171:2; T. Jacobsen CT Copenhagen 24 obv. 2; M. Sigrist Textes
economiques néo-sumériens de l'université de Syracuse
(1983), 368:8, 379:5, 479:2. For additional references from
other periods, see AHw s.v. šutummu.
consider in what sense the temple of a god (or at least some portion of it where the god resides on occasion) can be considered to be a "storehouse."

In this issue we need to step back from our modern conceptions of a temple or house of worship and view how temples functioned in other, better-attested ancient cultures:

Among the Greeks, as among most Pagan races, the temple was not a building in which a congregation met and worshipped, but was rather regarded as the house and treasury of the god.\(^5\)

In some temples . . . a special chamber, the *opisthodomus*, was cut off from the rest of the cella as a store-place for the rich treasures in gold and silver which belonged to the temple or had been deposited there as if in a bank. . . . In late times some of the most venerated temples . . . grew so rich in cups, tripods, statuettes, and other votive offerings made of gold and silver, that there was not sufficient room to hold them in the temple itself, and so a number of separate little treasure-houses were built within the sacred precincts.\(^6\)

As was the case in Greek temples, vast stores of treasure were frequently preserved in the temples of the Romans. . . . It was also not uncommon for wealthy Romans to deposit their own plate or money for safe keeping in the treasury of some temple. These Roman treasuries were usually formed under the temple floor in some part of the lofty *podium* on which most Roman temples were built.\(^7\)

The idea of a temple acting as a treasury or bank is foreign to most modern cultures as these functions have been assumed


by the government and/or private sectors. However, the temple in antiquity was considered to be a far better place of safe keeping, as it was under the special protection of the god. Equipped with this cultural insight and parallel example, it is reasonable to propose that a Babylonian temple also functioned as a treasury or repository for at least the assets of the god, if not also for those of the community. Translating šutummu as treasury or repository rather than granary or warehouse better fits the contextual references to šutummu as being "laden with splendor," a "holy dwelling of rest," elaborately decorated, and as being something kings would take pride in building (for it could also store and protect the palace treasures).

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Appendix C

bit papāḥi texts.

   The dimensions of the gates of three papāḥu (to Šamaš, Aya, and Bunene) are given as being between 16-18 cubits high. The bāb papāḥi ša Aya (1. 10) is a lower height than the bābu ša bit Aya (1. 17), suggesting that the god’s papāḥu is not the same as his bit.

2. Akkadian Rituals from the temple of Anu in Uruk (Thureau-Dangin):
   AO 6451 line 12 (p. 76): Refers to a gold libation vessel from the bit papāḥi of Anu. (Nabopolassar).
   line 31: 12 šib-tum maḥar šú-bat ʾA-ni u ili biti ša bit pa-pa-ḫa An-tum = 12 loaves before the seat/dwelling of Anu and the god of the house of the papāḥu of Antum.
   line 32: 16 šib-tum maḥar ziq-qur-rat ū ili bīti [CAD reads as bit ili] ša ziq-qur-rat 16 šib-tum maḥar a-ḫa-nu ša pa-pa-ḫa Anu u An-tum = 16 loaves for the temple tower and the sanctuary on the temple tower, 16 loaves for the wings(?) of the papāḥu of Anu and Antu (cf. aḫānu B in CAD A, p. 169).
   AO 6459 line 11 (p. 89): Refers to the entering (a-ri-bi) of two gods into the papāḥu.
VAT 7849: The ritual of the Nisan akītu-festival. One group of gods stands to the left of the gate of the papāḫu ina ṭēbi ʾAdad and another group of gods stand on the right side. The king goes into the papāḫu of Antum and prostrates himself (lines I 10-14, p. 100). After the procession (line IV 10f), ʾPap-sukkal and the king take the hand of Anu and seat him in his papāḫu. Other gods are seated around him, but ʾPap-sukkal himself stands in the gate of the papāḫu.

p. 115: gods are "seated" (uššab) in their papāḫu.

p. 140: the papāḫu has a door, and a kisallu (courtyard).


[k]i-[m]a ša ʾA-num ʾištu é-nam-en-na bīt pa-pa-ḫa it-ta-ša-a
while Anum is out of the Enamenna, the bīt papāḫa ...

4. ABAW nf 34, San Nicolò, Babylonische Rechtsurkunden text 36 (UET IV 23). Ur, 700-650 BC.

[ṭup-pi i]siq ʾbappitu-ú-tu
[ša bīt pa]-pa-ḫi ʾnin-a-zu šá qé-reb Ė(!).GĪD.DA of the papāḫu of Ninazu, which is inside Egidda.
5. Borger, Asarhaddon inscription (AfO bei 9) Uruk B, p. 76, 11:

É-nir-gál-an-na bit pa-pa-hi 'Iš-tar bělti-ya ša qé-reb É-an-na

Enirgalanna, the papāhu of Ištar my lady in the midst of Eanna... This shrine, built by an earlier king, Asarhaddon restored using fired brick. The context refers to the shrine as her dwelling, as does line 5: a-ši-bat É-nir-gál-an-na ša qé-reb É-an-na, "she who dwells in Enirgalanna in the midst of Eanna" (epithet of Ištar).

6. Anatolian Studies 5 (1955) p. 106, lines 149-151:

ṭup-šin-na e-pu-uš-ka narā áš-ṭur-ka
I have made for thee an ivory(?) tablet and inscribed a stele for thee,
ina Kutīki ina Ė-mes-lam / i-na pa-paḥ ‘Nergal e-zi-bak-ka
and in Cuthah, in E-meslam, / in the shrine of Nergal I have deposited it for three.

7. WVDOG 59 54:25ff

[bi-ta]-a-ti u 6 pa-pa-ha-a-ni šá nu-ḥar MU-NE bit šādi pa-paḥ ʿ[] . . . .
The houses and 6 shrines of the chapel on top of the ziggurat are as follows: The eastern house with the shrine of {god XX} is 60+[] in length, 40 in width.
Edge to edge\(^1\) the shrines of Nabû and Tašmetu are 45 in length, 40 in width. The two north houses of Ea and Nusku -- the house of Ea is 85 in length, 30 in width, the house of Nusku is 35 in length and 35 in width. The south house is for Anu and Enlil and is 70 in length and 30 in width. The west twin building and the staircase behind it, facing the bedroom is 125 in length, 30 in width; in front of the house is 100 in length, 20 in width; the staircase corresponds to these [measurements of the bedroom]\(^2\) in length, and is 35 in width. The courtyard is 100 in length and 65 in width, it is roofed and surrounded with bars(?).\(^3\) The bed is 9 cubits in length and 4 in width; the bed and throne are face to face, a second bed is placed in the courtyard. The door of sunrise is south, the door of sunset is north.

The text details explicitly only 3 of the 6 total \textit{papāḫu} on the top of the ziggurat.

8. Omens: \textit{CT} 40 15, lines 10-14:

10) If a white fungus occurs on the entrance of the sanctuary in the man's house ....

11) If a white fungus occurs in the bit \textit{da-ḫi-a}

\textit{variant: da-ḫa-a}.

\(^1\) \textit{CAD K} s.v. \textit{kannu} B e2', p. 157.

\(^2\) \textit{CAD S} p. 275; \textit{CAD E} p. 318.

\(^3\) \textit{CAD S} p. 256 la.
12) If a white fungus occurs in the bit pa-paḥ
13) If a white fungus is on the right of the bit pa-paḥ
14) If a white fungus is on the left of the bit pa-paḥ
15) If a white fungus is in the bit iš-[pi-]ki ("house of jars")

From the context this seems to refer to a "house chapel" or "family shrine". I could not find another reference to the bit da-ḥi-a to determine its relation to the papāḥu.

9. Nabonidus inscription 6 (Langdon NBK p. 252ff):

This text commemorates the rebuilding of the Ebarra, the temple of Šamaš in Sippar. It notes that Nebuchadnezzar had attempted to rebuild it but could not find the foundation deposits. After prayer, Nabonidus calls together his advisers and wise men, and commands them to: te-me-en la-bi-ri ši-te-’-ma / pa-pa-ḥu ʾšamši da-a-a-nu na-pa-li-sa-ma bita dārā a-na ʾšamaš u ʾa-a bēlī-MEŠ-a ip-pu-uš "Look for the old foundation deposit! Regard/Discover the shrine of Šamaš and build an eternal temple for Šamaš and Aya, my lords." They return with: ap-pa-lis-ma te-me-en la-bi-ri ša na-ram-ʾSin ul-lu pa-pa-ḥi ʾšamši ka-a-a-nu mu-šab ilu-ú-ti-šu "I found the old foundation deposit of the ancient Naram-Sin, the permanent shrine of Šamaš, the dwelling of his lordship."
10. Nebuchadnezzar inscription 44 (Langdon, NBK p. 204):

\[ dûm \ mušab \ 'Nabium \ EN \ širim \ ina \ Eruggana(?) \ \text{papāhi} \]
\[ bēlūtišu \ ina \ kupram \ u \ agurrim \ kīma \ šadī \ lu \ erte \]
"in Eruggana, the cella where he is worshipped as lord,
I firmly established, using bitumen and baked bricks,
(making it) as solid as a rock, the platform where
Nabû, the exalted lord, was to have his throne."

11. Langdon, NBK p. 128 iii 57:

\[ \text{tallakti} \ \text{papāha} \ u \ mālak \ bīti \ agur \ ešmarē \ dū \]
\[ \text{parakkē} \ qerbīšu \ pitiq \ kaspa \ . . . \ namriš \ ubanni \]
"I made the corridor (leading) to the papāhu and the
pavement of the shrine glisten beautifully with bricks
(made of cast) ešmarū-silver and the platforms and
adytum\(^4\) within it with cast silver." Rendered as "the
way to the sanctuary and the access to the temple" in
CAD M, p. 158 3.

\(^4\) CAD D p. 166. CAD notes that "excavations in Babylon
show that \text{di}'u denotes a solid brick platform that takes up
a large section of the cella [papāhu]. The term \text{parakku}, on
the other hand, refers to smaller structures upon which a
throne could be placed to lift the seat of the king (or
deity) above the level of its surroundings." However, Jin
Sup Kim, in his Ph.D. thesis BARAG in Sumerian Literature:
A Study of Historical Semantics with Emphasis on its
Referent and Cultural Function (Annenberg Research
Institute, 1991), argues that \text{parakku} is better translated
as \text{adytum} (from the Greek, meaning "not to be entered"), the
innermost room of a temple or shrine."

48:

é-ku-a pa-pa-ḫa 'enlil ilāni 'marduk

"Ekua, the shrine of Enlil, the god(?) of Marduk."

[parallel in NBK 15, p. 126 l. 24-25].


42-44:

ṣī-erēnī šulūlu papāḫāti 'Nabū ḫurāṣa uṣalbiš

"I coated the cedar (beams) of the roof of the shrines of Nabū with gold" (referring to several locations in the context).


29-30:

pa-pa-ḫa šu-ba-at be-lu-ti-šū / ḫurāṣa na-am-ra-am
šā-al-la-ri-iš lu āš-ta-ak-ka-an

"I covered the [Ekua] shrine, the dwelling of his lordship, with brilliant gold like plaster."

l. 35-38:

pa-pa-ḫa 'na-bi-um šā qe-re-eb é-sag-ila / si-ip-
pu-šū ši-ga-ru-šū ū ṣī-kanakki-šū ḫurāṣa ū-šā-al-bi-iš-ma biti ki-ma ū-um lu ū-na-am-mi-ir

"The shrine of Nabû which is inside Esagila, its (door)posts, its door bars, and its threshold I coated with gold. The temple shone like daylight."
15. Lexical listings.

(e)-ša-si-ga = papāḫu  MSL 6 24, 235f.


The following texts appear to refer to the papāḫu as the room of a house: I. M. Diakonoff et al., Assyriological Miscellaneies I Copenhagen (1980), Sumerian Proverb Collection XXIV, by Bendt Alster, p. 37, The Fowler and his wife, line 21; Sjöberg, JCS 29 (1977) p. 23 (citing CBS 8530 obv. I 13, ROM 721 obv. 14 and obv. 4); "Dialogue 5" 96.

Conclusions:

The bit papāḫu is the inner chamber in a temple where the god actually dwells (ašābu). There were several in a temple complex for the various gods, although more than one god could dwell in the papāḫu.

Although the terms to not appear to occur together, the descriptions of the papāḫu closely parallel those of the atmanu. Perhaps there is some subtle difference in meaning (like that between a condominium and apartment) that alludes to us today.

Unfortunately, there are no texts in which the papāḫu seems to play a role in either divine or human assemblies.

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5 For floor plans, see L. W. King, LIH 2 (1900) 107 = 3:255f; F. Thureau-Dangin, RTC 145. [Cited by Levine and Hallo, HUCA 38 (1967), p. 57.]
Appendix D.
buršumu texts.

1. Sumerian sources:
1.1 Lugalbanda Epic I.
247) gaba-u₄-da-zu zulumḫ i-kù-gin, ša-mu₄-mu₄
248) é-ur₅-ra tūg-siki-babbar bar-ba im-dul
249) ab-ba-ab-ba gū-tuku-gin,
250) bur-šu(-ma)-e-ne gaba-u₄-da-zu
251) a-ār u₄-ul-lí-a-aš ši-im-du₁₀-du₁₀-ge-ne
252) gaba-u₄-da-zu i-gin, rib-ba-ām
253) am-gal-gal-e du₁₀ ām-mi-gāl

Source: Ms Sol Cohen and Mark Hall, University Museum.

1.2 Inanna and Enki. Tablet II col. iv:
26) [k]ū₄-inanna-k[e₄] mu-na-[ni-ib-gi₄-gi₄]
The pure Inanna [answered] him as follows:
27) [g]á-e u₄-da m[á-an-na]
"Today I have the heavenly boat
28) ká-gal ni-ul-la unug₄ kul-aba₅-kšè x [ ]
[brought] to the city gate (named) "joy" at Uruk-Kulaba
29) [sila]-a maḥ ḫu-mu-un-dib-[bē (?)]
on the [street] it should be carefully pulled
30) [ x s]ila-a-a maḥ ḫé-em-da-su₄-su₄-[ge-eš]
carefully should [...] on the [stre]et stand by it!
31) [ TŪN'-na ḫé-em-ta'-[ ]
32) [ ḫúl-la šu-ta [ ]
33) ab-ba-uru šа-kūš-ù [ ]

On the old men of the city [I will bestow] prudence
34) \textit{bur-šu-ma} ad-g[i₄-gi₄] \\
On the old women [I will bestow] clever advice

35) \textit{guruš-e} á-[sītukul-la] \\
On the young men [I will bestow] strength in battle,

36) di₄-di₄[-lā ša-ḥūl-la] \\
On the children [I will bestow] joyful hearts.

37) \textit{unu\textsuperscript{g₁}} \\
Uruk ......"

Note: Does \textit{buršuma} in line 34 refer to "old women" or to "the assembly" of the city -- as distinct from the "old men" or "elders of the city" mentioned on the previous line?


2. Lexical texts.

2.1 \textit{an-ta-gāl} = šaqū. Antagal B 82.

5) \textit{AB-BA} \hspace{1cm} a- [ ]

6) \textit{Gū-GAR-RA} \hspace{1cm} za-ru-[ ]

7) \textit{UKKIN\textsuperscript{es} MES} \hspace{1cm} pur-šu-[\textit{mu}]

8) \textit{NINDĀ} \hspace{1cm} it-tu-[ū]

Source: Line numbering follows RM 504 in \textit{CT 19} plate 32.

2.2 \textit{malku} = šarru tablet I.

113) \textit{ḥe-ru-u} \hspace{1cm} a-bu

114) \textit{za-ru-u} \hspace{1cm} "

115) \textit{nār-dab-bu} \hspace{1cm} "

116) \textit{ki-in-na-nu-u} \hspace{1cm} "
117) it-tu-u
118) lū-mah-ḫu ši-i-bu
119) pi-iz-nu-qu "
120) pur-šu-mu "
121) ki-ib-ru-ú "
122) ba-an-tu um-mu
123) a-ga-ri-in-nu "
124) šá-as-su-ri "

Notes: Compare line 117 here with line 8 of Antagal: CAD I lists Antagal B 82 s.v. ittū B = "seeding apparatus of the plow." In light of line 117, perhaps it would be better to list Antagal B under itū B = "neighbor." Note also that puršumu is listed under šibu, a masculine term, not under ummu, a feminine one.

76) me-me-tum ar-d[a]-tum
77) me-er-tum "
78) ši-du-ri "
79) sa-ar-rum ši-{i}-bu
80) šu-gu-ú "
81) pur-šu-mu "
82) ša-am-ka-tum KAR.KID (= ḫarimtu)
83) ša-mu-uk-tum "

Source: Kilmer, JAOS 83 pp. 426, 434.

2.3 Silbenalphabet A, face D.
1') a.ba
2') a.ba.ba um-m[i
3’) ba.ba $a-a[(?)-um-ma(?)]$
4’) ba.ba.a pur-šu-ma
5’) ba.za ba.an.za
6’) ba.za(?)za sa.l ba.an.za


2.4 VAT 10262.
ab.ba pur-šu-mu

Source: AHW (otherwise unpublished).

3. Neo-Assyrian letters.
3.1 Esarhaddon. K 3500 + K 4444 + K 10235.
6) [...] qīpu ša ana ?] muḫ-ḫi-ka āš(?)-kun-u-ni xxxx [...] 
   ... [the officials whom] I have placed over you ....
7) [...]-ka 16par-ša-mu-te šá māti-ka ina mi(?)-ki(?) [...] 
   ... the elders of the land with {advice} ...
8) [...]-u-ni 16qe-e-pu is-si-šū-nu i-[...]
   ... the officials with you ...


12) ū-ma-a šarru be-lī ina muḫḫi
   Now let the king my lord to
13) 'Ilu-ya-da-‘ liś-pur-... ma-ḫir-te
   Iluyada send. Let him forward (?)
14) lil-li-ka ū a-na-ku
    come and I

15) al-la-kam-ma ʾpar-ša-mu-ti
    will come and the elders

16) i-si-e-a ub-ba-la ʾUpahḥir-Bēl
    I will bring with me. Let Upahhir-Bel

17) lil-li-ka ina bir-tu-un-ni
    come. In our midst

18) lu-ka-a-a-in ana a-ha-a-a-iš
    let him place him. Together

19) ni-id-bu-ub {šarru} lip-ru-uš
    we shall speak. Let the king decide

20) ina bir-tu-un-ni ...
    between us.

Notes: Several cities are mentioned in the context of this
dispute. One presumes that the elders are associated with
one or more of the cities in question.

Source: Harper, ABL 168. Leroy Waterman, Royal
Correspondence of the Assyrian Empire I. Ann Arbor:
University of Michigan, 1930. New York: Johnson Reprint,
1972.

4. Other occurrences.

1. par-šu-mu appears phonetically in the sense of "old
man" in the following texts: ABL 9, 15; ABL 3, Rs. 3;
AOAT 1, 57 Edge 1. The plural ʾpar-ša-mu-te appears in the
sense of "old men" in ABL 2, 16. There is no assembly or
eldership sense apparent in these contexts.
2. In AHw von Soden translates NeoAssyrian нныеAB.BA as puršumu, AB.BA as šibu, and NAM.AB.BA as šibētu. The following texts he then lists under puršumu: ABL 91, 13; ABL 377, 16; ABL 1044, 11; Iraq 20 p. 188, 11. 34, 38, 43 (see discussion by K. Deller in Or NS 34, p. 262, 274).

While there is no dispute that the logogram نتهاءAB.BA should be rendered as "elders" (of the city, of the land, etc.), I feel that the precise Akkadian term to use is ambiguous (šibētu, the plural of šibu, is another possibility).
References or sources for only a single text are cited above in the relevant discussion sections. Unless otherwise noted, all abbreviations follow those used in the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (CAD).


Wilson, John A. The Assembly of a Phoenician City. JNES 15 (1945) p. 245.
